

STATEMENT OF PAKISTAN
17th Session of the General Conference
27 November - 01 December, 2017, Vienna

To be delivered by:

Mr. Maroof Afzal

Secretary, Ministry of Industries and Production

Thank you Madam President

[Ambassador Alena KUPCHYNA, Permanent Representative of Belarus]

Director General, *[Mr Li Yong]*

Excellencies, and

Distinguished Delegates

Good morning/afternoon

At the outset, Madam President, let me felicitate you and other members of the bureau on your election as the President of the 17th Session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. We have confidence and faith in your abilities and skills. I wish to assure you complete support of my delegation to achieve the objectives of this session. I would also like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for making all arrangements and preparations for this session.

I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to H.E. Dr. Christine Stix-Hackl, Permanent Representative of Austria, for her able guidance as the distinguished Chair, as well as the outgoing bureau for their commendable contributions at the previous session of the Conference.

Madam President,

Pakistan welcomes the re-election of Mr Li Yong as the Director General of UNIDO for another term. My delegation is convinced that under the stewardship of Director General Li, UNIDO would enhance its activities, through its clear policies and strategies, to assist the developing Member States in converting emerging industrial challenges into opportunities and reducing poverty as well as inequalities, both within and among Member States.

We appreciate and recognize that under the able guidance of Director General Li, UNIDO has renewed its importance as a responsive organization. During his first term of office, Mr Li guided the Organization with his dynamic leadership and managed to overcome many of the administrative, financial and policy challenges that the Organization faced.

Allow me Director General, to congratulate you on your re-election and assure you of Pakistan's full cooperation in achieving the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 9. Your re-election has provided an opportunity to the Organization to continue ~~on the path of ISID.~~

benefitting from your meritorious skills

The year 2018 will mark 50 years of Pakistan-UNIDO fruitful cooperation. I invite Director General Li Yong to visit Pakistan to follow the theme of this Conference – “Partnering for Impact” and to further strengthen our long-term partnership.

Madam President,

Pakistan associates itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China. We would also like to recall the statement of G77 and China, delivered at the special meeting of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on “Innovations for infrastructure development and promoting sustainable industrialization” at New York on 31 May 2017.

For developing nations like Pakistan, inclusive and sustainable industrialization plays a pivotal role not only in economic but also in social development, through job creation that reduces poverty and helps decrease inequalities.

We value UNIDO's contribution since its operations began in Pakistan in 1968. UNIDO has implemented over 50 projects in Pakistan, including in the sectors of:

- Industrial competitiveness
- Sustainable energy for all
- Clean production and green industry
- Trade capacity building
- Technical and vocational education
- Women entrepreneurship

Madam President,

We noted with great pleasure that the Global Clean tech Innovation Programme(GCIP) to promote clean production and green industry in Pakistan was one of the most successful programmes. The GCIP not only provided an opportunity to innovators to demonstrate their skills in Silicon Valley but also empowered women and youth. Pakistan is very keen to ensure continuity of GCIP in Pakistan and has, therefore, invited the private sector as well. Since the next phase of GCIP II will further ensure women and youth empowerment, we look forward to UNIDO's partners continuing their support to GCIP II in Pakistan.

Another highlight of Pakistan-UNIDO cooperation since the last General Conference was the completion of the six-year EU-funded Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA II) Programme in 2016. Under this programme, UNIDO assisted in the development of trade policy, improvement of business environment for trade including support to the Trade Dispute Resolution Organization, quality infrastructure

development, export development and strengthening of the intellectual property rights system.

UNIDO's new interventions in Pakistan include the Cluster Development Initiative (CDI) and the establishment of the Industrial Intelligence Unit (IIU). The CDI is aimed at enhancing productivity, quality and profitability of local industries through sharing of services and resources. The IIU will lead to better statistical analysis and feed into identifying new markets as well as better policy-making. The impact of these programmes would be more pronounced through replication in other regions as well as sectors to create synergy.

We have keenly followed UNIDO's approach of Programme for Country Partnership (PCP). With the mid-term evaluation of PCPs available, Pakistan and UNIDO would be in a better position to understand the comparative advantage that can be achieved through applying techniques of PCP to achieve the objectives of Vision 2025 of the Government of Pakistan.

Madam President,

With the advent of progress in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) there seems to be greater opportunities for intensifying UNIDO's efforts in the country especially with the initiation of industrialization and infrastructure development that will have a far reaching impact on the regional economy, market dynamics and industrial development.

The CPEC is a mega Foreign Direct Investment project for Pakistan and a win-win opportunity for regional connectivity. In this regard, we welcome the One-Belt-One-Road initiative, which is in harmony with the infrastructure development in Pakistan with the assistance of China. Pakistan expects almost 700,000 direct jobs between 2015 and 2030, and

to add 2 to 2.5 percentage points to Pakistan's annual economic growth from CPEC related economic activity.

Madam President,

To conclude, I would like to reiterate Pakistan's deep appreciation for UNIDO's role and activities to achieve the objectives set out in Agenda 2030. Pakistan is committed to inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

We reaffirm our support to UNIDO's activities in Pakistan.

Thank you Madam President

