

**Statement by the Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Korea  
Ambassador Shin Dong-ik  
at the 17th Session of the General Conference of UNIDO**

Madam President,  
Representatives of States,  
Distinguished Members,

I would like to first congratulate Your Excellency Ambassador Kupchyna on your election as the President of the 17<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNIDO. I assure you of the full support of my delegation and am confident that your capable leadership will lead the conference to a successful and fruitful outcome.

Taking this opportunity, I also extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Li Yong on his reappointment as Director General of UNIDO for a second term. Throughout his first term, he successfully discharged his responsibilities through his strenuous efforts to realign UNIDO's priorities for better integration into the global development agenda. I wish him great success in his second term leading the half-century old UN organization on its core mission to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States.

*[SDGs & UNIDO]*

Madam President,

This is the second year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals. Like every UN agency, UNIDO has been entrusted with the implementation of the SDGs, especially SDG 9, to transform the world through poverty eradication and sustainable development. Building resilient infrastructure, promoting

inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation are indeed critical elements for countries that wish to overcome poverty and move towards sustainable development. Considering the achievements of UNIDO in these fields, high expectations and hopes for the successful implementation of SDG 9 have been placed on UNIDO.

*[UNIDO's new strategic priority]*

In this sense, I welcome that UNIDO's medium-term programme framework 2018–2021 includes the new strategic priority of "Strengthening Knowledge and Institutions". I believe UNIDO is well-suited to serve as a platform where development experiences and knowledge are shared.

The Republic of Korea strongly believes knowledge and institutions are necessary means for industrial development. Our own development experience shows that fostering innovative knowledge and building the capacity of institutions have greatly helped rapid economic growth and industrialization. Korea recognized the importance of science and technology at the national level and invested heavily in enhancing technological capability by supporting research and development and industry-academia collaboration.

Reflecting on our success and lessons learned, we wish to share these experiences with developing countries on the path to inclusive sustainable development. Korea is an active participant in UNIDO technical cooperation projects that draw policy implications and lessons from our own experiences for application to local contexts.

*[Programme for Country Partnership]*

Madam President,

Along with recognizing the ambitious role of UNIDO as a global platform for industrial development, we appreciate UNIDO's efforts to expand the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) with a regional balance. We expect that the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> ISID Forum will be a great opportunity for Member States to witness the outcomes for themselves, thus reinforcing the value and vision of the PCP.

In this regard, I am pleased to express the Korean government's interest in supporting the new PCP for Cambodia. I believe this program will be another good example of the Korea-UNIDO partnership contributing to inclusive and sustainable industrial development in developing countries through sharing Korea's experience.

*[Empowerment of Women]*

In our efforts for inclusive and sustainable industrialization, the role of women cannot be overemphasized. The best investment is to make more economic opportunities available to women. Women's economic empowerment contributes not only to economic development but also to the health and education of their families. Investment in women is therefore an investment in future generations. Indeed, experience has shown that empowering women and youth has led to significant job creation and growth in society and business. In this sense, we fully support UNIDO in emphasizing women's empowerment and look forward to continuous efforts to mainstream a gender perspective in UNIDO's programs and projects.

*[Job Creation]*

The Republic of Korea attaches great importance to creating a business environment that is conducive to enterprises to entering the market and creating jobs and income. With job creation a national priority and a key element of our development assistance, we welcome UNIDO activities to help the private sector to grow, innovate, learn and

compete, putting them in a position to create jobs and income that will lead to supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Madam President,

In concluding, I would like to reaffirm that the Republic of Korea will continue to actively participate in UNIDO's partnership activities and support the Organization's noble efforts towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Thank you. /END/