

**Statement by Dr. Subhash Chandra Pandey,
Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, DIPP
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Thank you. Madam President,

Good morning Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

India adds its voice to the sentiments of support and felicitations to you. We also congratulate Director General, Mr. Li Yong on his re-election as the Director General of the UNIDO for the second term. We appreciate the team work behind the organization of this conference.

Madam President,

It has been two years since the adoption of UN's 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It is imperative to enhance collaborative action to achieve these goals. We hope this General Conference on "Partnering for Impact-Achieving the SDGs" will make substantive progress towards this. Earlier this year in July, India completed its first voluntary national review of SDGs. The bedrock of our development agenda lies in the notion of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas" - that is: Collective Effort, Inclusive Growth. India has mapped each of the SDGs to our own development programmes and schemes, both at the federal and state level. Our Parliament has taken the initiative to organize Parliamentary debates on SDGs. Our programmes are geared to accomplish these priority goals in a time-bound manner. We would like to see such domestic efforts buttressed by strong international partnerships. India has a long tradition of such partnerships amongst developing countries. At every step, we have shared our experience and resources across a range of sectors: from strengthening democratic institutions to

deploying high-tech solutions for public good.

As the only organization in the UN system tasked with the promotion of industrial development, UNIDO has important contribution to make to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a founder member, India has enjoyed a close association with UNIDO and has contributed resources - financial, managerial, and technical - and provided a large and diverse arena for UNIDO's developmental interventions over decades. We have also cooperated with UNIDO in projects in other developing countries. We stand ready with our offer to expand such collaborations with UNIDO.

India and UNIDO have together set up an International Centre for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (IC-ISID) in New Delhi. The Centre promotes the ISID agenda not only in Indian industry, but also in other developing countries. It has taken up 4 core projects in the areas of cement, leather, paper and bicycles. India has developed a model of ICT embedded planning for Smart Cities to be located in industrial corridors and national investment and manufacturing zones, which can be of interest to other developing countries. India can be a partner to further strengthen partnerships with developing countries in our region through the ICISID Center.

Last year, we commemorated the 50 years of UNIDO-India cooperation. India has set the target of significantly increasing the contribution of industry to the economy, whilst at the same time bolstering industry's contributions to social development, conservation of natural resources and protection of environment and climate. This is reflected in the several flagship programmes such as "Make in India", "Start Up India", "Skill India", "Smart Cities" and

“Swacch Bharat Mission”, which form the central pillar of India’s economic growth strategy in the coming years.

In the latest World Bank’s Doing Business Report released earlier this month, India has jumped 30 places to stand at 100 in the new rankings. This is historic for it is the highest jump by any country in the doing business sector and acknowledges India’s reform trajectory under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. The business environment has improved at the fifth fastest pace in the world and India is among the top 10 ‘improvers’ globally, having done better in 8 out of 10 business parameters. The country has jumped 53 places from 172 to 119 on ease of paying taxes, leapt over to the 4th rank on protecting minority investors and moves 15 places from 44 to 29 on ease of businesses getting credit. The most significant jump is in taxation policy parameter.

With this strong resolve at improving the business climate in India and the diverse opportunities thrown up by ‘Make in India’ initiative, India is keen to explore partnerships with UNIDO in all aspects of industrial development. The Indian economy is on a high growth path, with a GDP growth of 7.1 % in 2016-2017, the highest among the larger economies of the world.

For UNIDO projects in India, we would like to see timely and cost effective implementation, the use of cutting age technologies, international best practices, and, most of all, the use of our abundant local resources - both human and material. These would strengthen UNIDO’s partnership with local stakeholders and would facilitate the scaling up of pilot projects. The Country Programme for India for 2018-2022 is under formulation and we expect that the programme framework covers thematic areas such as poverty reduction,

skill development, job creation, inclusive and environmentally sustainable development and reflect expectations of main stakeholders in Indian industrial ecosystem whilst also building upon lessons learnt from the past experience.

UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnerships [PCP] shows promise. We take note of the draft evaluation report of the independent midterm evaluation of UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership and look forward to the final report. The draft report provides a sound evaluation of the two years of the pilot phase of the PCPs and we hope that it would be helpful and important learning to enable UNIDO to further scale up the PCP model to other Member States. While going forward with the PCP, it is also equally important that the traditional models of project delivery in the South-South, and triangular cooperation frameworks, should also be further strengthened.

Lastly, Madam President, I should like to reiterate our concern about the depletion in the assessed contributions base of UNIDO as a result of the withdrawal of some Member States. Although voluntary contributions show an increase and have helped to enhance UNIDO's project envelope, they are not a substitute for the Organization's core funding. We welcome the Director General's efforts to develop alternative mechanisms to improve and sustain the financial situation of the Organization.

Thank you, Madam President.
