



The Federal Republic of Somalia

National Statement of General Conference 27 November 1 December UNIDO 2017

Dear Madam President,
Excellencies, Ambassadors,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Madam President, Allow me to congratulate to you, and as well as, Mr. Li Yong for his re-appointment to Director-General of UNIDO.

On behalf of my Government to present to you the strategy that Somalia has put in place for the 2020 Sustainable Development Goals.

I want to express my gratitude for being able to be here today as we all look to work together in achieving a clear and ambitious industrial objective.

Before I go into the details regarding our common sustainable development goals. Somalia has taken great steps in its efforts to build a platform for genuine industrial growth in recent years.

We must first take a look at the progress we have made up until this point. Somalia has made steady socioeconomic and political progress and is slowly but surely become a relatively peaceful country.

The international monetary fund in its review of the Somali economy for the first time in two decades noted that between the years 2012 and 2014, Somalia's real GDP grew by 3.7%., this renewed recognition by the IMF clearly conveys that we are putting our administrative set-up in order and will continue to do so.

Nations states such as such Turkey, Italy Japan, as well as supranational organizations like the European Union, among others and International Communities, have been very active in helping Somalia and we want to use this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude for productive interventions.

But above all, we want to express the most gratitude to UNIDO's interventions in Somalia, particularly in the North of Somalia, South Somalia. UNIDO has provided various different assistance, such as skills training in vocational work in livelihoods.

UNIDO have strengthened the ability and engagement of national counterparts to lead and manage local economic development initiatives. Somalia thanks them for that.

Additionally, SMEs have been revitalized by UNIDO through civil upgrade initiatives, management training, technology transfers and linking technical skills to emerging markets that have fostered greater opportunities. We thank them for that too.

Some of the most important work UNIDO has done in Somalia has centered around enhancing agricultural production and agro-processing capacities, Which contributes to huge levels of economic output for Somalia as it as an integral sector.

Madam President, The main area that we will present to you today is in relation to the industry, innovation, and infrastructure development goals. Damage and destruction to infrastructure are inevitable in any conflict, and Somalia, unfortunately, has not escaped this yet.

The need for quality, sustainable infrastructure is essential for any re-building process and the restoration is a major dividend of peace and a critical factor in the success of a post-conflict recovery.

Infrastructure is all-encompassing and mainly falls into three categories.

The first; economic infrastructure which includes vital systems in transport, energy, and communications. This will be the foundation of the economy and wider society and will allow Somalia to function efficiently.

Second; social infrastructure – these are also of major importance and include clean, drinkable water, sanitation, quality housing, schools, and hospitals.

And third; institutional infrastructure – the facilities, equipment, and manpower that is required at national and local governance.

As we know, quality infrastructure is a necessity for developing countries to thrive and self-sustain. Although achieving this will be a long and difficult process, having infrastructure is part of the wider equation.

We also need to be sustainable. We do not want infrastructure for 5 or 10 years. We want a long-term, concrete plan (Let me say again) Madam President.

that will provide the platform for sustainable infrastructure for many decades to come as Somalia continues its journey to re-development.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, in 2014 Somalia exported over five million livestock to markets in the Gulf States – this was our highest annual number of livestock animal exports in the last 20 years, with an estimated total value of \$360 million contributing to 40% of the country's GDP. This is just the tip of the iceberg and I know that Somalia has the potential and capacity to export even more than the stated figures.

We must continue this progression, and with quality and sustainable infrastructure, Somalia's increasing economic output, especially in the fisheries and agriculture sectors, can drag the country out of its slump and into a prosperous, developing country.

Madam President, We look forward to collaborating further with International Communities, as well as UNIDO.

Thank you very indeed.