

**National Statement to be made by Ms. Sumita Dawra, Joint Secretary,
DPIIT in 18th Session of General Conference of UNIDO
3-7 November 2019, Abu Dhabi**

My delegation would like to welcome you for assuming the Chair of the 18th General Conference. We also welcome other members of the Bureau and assure full cooperation from my delegation to the work of the General Conference.

2. We associate ourselves with the statements made by Ambassador of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and would like to add following points from our national perspective.

Mr President,

3. We are approaching the fourth anniversary of the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals by the UN General Assembly. It is imperative to enhance collaborative action to achieve these goals. We hope this General Conference on “Achieving the SDGs through Public Private Partnership” will make substantive progress towards this. In 2017, India completed its first voluntary national review of SDGs. India has given its strong commitment to SDGs. Its key major developmental programmes, the strategies for a ‘New India’ by 2022, and the country’s vision for 2030 are aligned with the spirit of the SDGs. For instance, the flagship programmes of the Government of India such as Poshan Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission), Aayushman Bharat (National Health Protection Scheme), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Care for the Girl Child) and Aspirational Districts programme, just to name a few, directly address the challenges highlighted by SDGs. The International Solar Alliance, co-founded by India, is an example of the country’s leadership in the global arena towards a sustainable future.

4. The bedrock of our development agenda lies in the notion of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas Sabka Vishwas” articulated by the honourable Prime Minister - that is: Collective Effort, Inclusive Growth, mirror the essence of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to leave no one behind and encourage participation in country’s development. India has mapped each of the SDGs to our own development programmes and schemes, both at the federal and state level. The Government of India has unfurled the, ‘Strategy for New India @ 75’, that is aligned to SDGs and aims to propel India towards a US\$ 5 trillion economy by 2024.

5. 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.

7. 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 SDGs. As a founder member, India has enjoyed a close association with UNIDO and has contributed resources - financial, managerial, and technical - and supported a large and diverse arena for UNIDO's developmental interventions over decades. The India Country Programme (CP) represents the second largest UNIDO country portfolio. Over 400 UNIDO projects have been implemented in India since 1966. Besides the annual contribution of over 0.84 Million Euros equivalent to 1.23% of total assessed contribution of UNIDO for 2019-20, India also provides USD 1.2 million as annual voluntary contribution to the Industrial Development Fund (IDF) of UNIDO, which funds the various activities of UNIDO projects in India as also activities in third countries under the South-South cooperation. Besides this, sizable funds are provided by other international organizations like GEF for executing projects. We stand ready with our offer to expand such collaborations with UNIDO.

8. 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. Under this framework, various projects are under. We, however, feel that the Centre requires vigorous monitoring at HQs. We believe that member states must approach this Center for exploring options of collaborations and joint projects wherein mutual partnerships can be tailored for mutual benefits. We would also like to see the Regional Office in New Delhi strengthen UNIDO's effectiveness and collaboration linkages in the region.

9. 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.

10. 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 robust GDP growth rate, the highest among the larger economies of the world.

11. 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 Framework for India for 2018-2022 covers various 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.

12. We also take note that Programme for Country Partnership(PCP)was expanded to all geographical regions in 2018, thus completing the pilot phase. The PCP is now ongoing in six countries, with implementation advancing in Ethiopia, Peru and Senegal as well as programme is being finalized in Morocco and ongoing in Cambodia and Kyrgyzstan. The programme formulation process for new PCPs in Egypt, Rwanda and Zambia were commenced last year. In this regard, India will be ready to join UNIDO in executing projects and in sharing our experience and expertise in these PCP countries. We believe that the tried and time-tested model of project delivery in the South-South, and triangular cooperation frameworks, should be further enhanced. 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.

13. Lastly, Mr. 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, Mr. President