



AFGHANISTAN

STATEMENT

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At the 46th session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB)
of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

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**Madam President, [H.E. Ms. Faouzia MEBARKI, Permanent Representative of Algeria]
Distinguished Delegations, a very good morning to you all!**

Madam President,

Let me first congratulate you on your election as the President of the 46th session of UNIDO's Industrial Development Board, and I also wish to congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election. We are confident that under your Presidency we will have a very successful session. Let me assure you, Mme. President, of Afghanistan's full cooperation in this regard. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President, Her Excellency Ms. Franceshi Navarro, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Panama and her bureau for their commendable work. We welcome the State of Palestine as the newest member of UNIDO.

We present our deepest sorrow and condolences to the Permanent Mission of Austria on the recent demise of H.E. Ms. Christine Stix-Hackl, Ambassador and Permanent Representative. Her dedication and diligence will be fondly remembered and missed.

Madam President,

Afghanistan is fully associated with the statements made by the Asia-Pacific Group and the Group of 77 and China, but we would like to make a few additional points in our national capacity:

On behalf of the people and Government of Afghanistan, I would like to express my gratitude to Director General Li Yong for his strong leadership and for all his efforts in managing the organization, especially UNIDO's

efforts regarding **women empowerment**. The Director General's tireless efforts in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) and his proactive engagement towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are commendable. Afghanistan is a **young democracy**. Youth plays a great role where 64% of the population is under the age of 26. They must be included in the Sustainable Development Goals. I further assure Afghanistan's full support and active participation in the future work of UNIDO.

Madam President,

Afghanistan is emerging from decades of complex and prolonged war and conflicts. Afghanistan's landlocked geography, mountainous terrain and its nearest seaport located over 2,000 Km from its borders, makes Afghanistan one of the **most disadvantaged landlocked states**. In addition, **threats to security** present a great challenge to economic activities. Afghanistan's economy has been highly dependent on international aid and with the withdrawal of international forces and decrease in international support, our economy is now faced with a lower economic growth rate, accompanied with high unemployment, negative balance of trade and a very low level of industrial development. We believe that international support through a collective, integrated approach – and regional and international partnerships, on an equal footing, as the Secretary General mentioned in his speech today, can help countries like Afghanistan to advance from such a status and move forward to a stable and balanced economy.

Madam President,

This year marks Afghanistan's 33rd anniversary as a Member of UNIDO. So, allow me to reflect on a few recent Afghanistan-related activities:

We attach a great significance to ISID-related technical cooperation and appreciate the UNIDO's increasing technical services including through country programs.

In November 2016, we signed the new **country programming framework** (CP) for Afghanistan, which has been developed in line with the ANPDF and NPPs. The CP includes important components such as support to national institutions through industrial competitiveness and trade capacity building and implementing an industrial policy for Afghanistan, private sector development, fostering entrepreneurial youth through an entrepreneurship curriculum, as well as promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Afghanistan.

As a living document, the CP is continuously evaluated to ensure its alignment with the relevant national priorities in Afghanistan.

The National Unity Government is committed to transform Afghanistan from a consuming economy to a self-reliant economy and as an exporting source and we will continue our efforts to further improve the legal, institutional and policy frameworks required for ISID as an important element in this context.

Madam President,

We strongly believe in equal distribution of support to all UNIDO member countries, but we also hold the view that there should be a mechanism through **which LDCs could be prioritized** when it comes to UNIDO's development initiatives and the goes for the cooperation with other international organizations working in this area.

We are now three years into the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and we believe that it will be vital to expedite our work pace and I wish to express my hope that the next General Conference will generate innovative ideas to push our 2030 agenda, including the fair integration of LDCs in the global value chain, and unleash synergies to forge new partnerships towards the achievement of the SDGs in 2030.

As I conclude, allow me to once again express my appreciation for UNIDO's continued engagement and cooperation. Our joint efforts will have significant impact in the achievement of broader social and economic development goals which are prerequisites for prosperity, peace and stability.

Thank you!