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**Fifteenth Session of the General Conference of UNIDO,**  
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*Statement by*

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Madam President,

Allow me to congratulate you for presiding over this important Conference. I assure you of my delegation's full support for fruitful and productive deliberations during the session. Let me also express my thanks to Her Excellency Ms. Veronica Sion, Minister of Industry and Productivity of Ecuador for her able stewardship of the previous session of the Conference. I would join the previous speakers in expressing our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Peru for their warm hospitality, and for ably hosting this Conference.

My delegation associates itself with the statements of the Group of 77 & China and the Asian Group. Also, I wish to acknowledge the tireless work undertaken by Director General LI Yong since taking office, particularly his commitment to the five-pillar strategy and his efforts to forge partnerships for knowledge exchange and technology transfer. We reaffirm our continued support to the Director General in fulfilling the Organization's mandate.

Madam President,

Poverty continues to be the biggest development challenge of our time. It confronts us with a multitude of complex issues. Despite the progressive growth of the global economy and the outstanding levels of scientific and technological progress, 1.2 billion of extreme poor await an opportunity to lead better lives. Access to basic amenities, education and health services and decent jobs remain

elusive for vast segments of the population even in growing economies. This leads us to the conviction that growth is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for poverty reduction. Growth has to be inclusive and accompanied by complementary measures and policy actions to increase productivity in a sustained manner.

The ongoing global financial and economic crises and their impact on developing countries, particularly on the industrial sector, underscore the importance of a collective response for sustained growth and employment generation. My Government recognizes that in order to pave the way for the future we want, addressing the challenges of inclusive, sustainable and equitable development have to be the common denominator for all states. The object of our shared endeavours should be to reform the prevailing patterns of production and consumption, which are currently based on unwarranted consumerism and disregard for environmental degradation.

Today, several challenges as well as opportunities lie ahead for UNIDO. It is faced with material resource constraints and a difficult international environment; its contributions to industrial development are often underplayed and its role in the multilateral development framework repeatedly put to question. UNIDO finds itself at a crossroads, advancing as we are toward a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 development agenda. This renders a unique responsibility on us to ensure that UNIDO continues to be recognized as an indispensable constituent of the international development mechanism - more importantly, that UNIDO's plan of action and future strategy for industrial progress incorporates, in a balanced way, the three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages. We are of the firm conviction that with the adoption of the Lima Declaration, UNIDO would be able to provide meaningful impetus to the shared objectives of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Madam President,

Pakistan has a long association with UNIDO. UNIDO has done a commendable job in our country since it established its office in Islamabad in 1968. It has implemented more than 100 projects and another 15 are in progress. And these are in important areas such as energy and environment, trade capacity-

building, SME development and technology transfer. UNIDO's Trade Related Technical Assistance project would contribute to my country's economic integration into global and regional trade. Its Sustainable Energy Production project is aimed at electrifying households in Sindh province and providing electricity to SMEs in Punjab. It would also contribute to addressing Pakistan's critical energy shortage, which is responsible for reduced capacity utilization in some key industries by upto 50 percent.

Madam President,

Let me reiterate our unqualified support for the Strategic Guidance Document. It is the product of the hard work and the time invested by the member states in an extensive process of elaborating UNIDO's conceptual and operational framework. We continue to hold confidence in the document's enduring value for the organization's resource and programme structure. We trust the Conference to formally endorse the document as a basis for the medium-term programme frameworks and other operational programmes of UNIDO.

I would also take this opportunity to thank the Auditor General of Pakistan for his admirable contribution to the improvement of UNIDO's transparency and accountability as he successfully completes his term as the External Auditor. We are confident that his successor would continue to add value to the organization's management toward its increased efficiency and effectiveness.

Thank you Madam President

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