



AFGHANISTAN

STATEMENT

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**Madam President,
Mr. Director General,
Distinguished delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to be part of this high level segment of the Industrial Development Board. I would like to congratulate you, Madam President and other members of the bureau on your election. Allow me also to join other distinguished delegations to express my congratulations to the entire UNIDO family on the 50th anniversary of the organization.

We commend the excellent work of the secretariat in organizing various events and activities in the framework of the 50th anniversary of the organization.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization has a crucial role in facilitating the implementation of SDGs through pursuing its important mandate in promoting and accelerating inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

We are pleased that the ISID concept is incorporated in SDGs, in particular under Goal 9 and that efforts are already underway under UNIDO to help member states with meeting the targets under this goal as well as other development goals relevant to the work of the organization including those related to poverty eradication, job creation, environment protection and women's empowerment.

We attach a great significance to ISID-related technical cooperation and appreciate the UNIDO's increasing technical services including through country programs. We hope that we will also witness a greater involvement of the organization in industrial policy dialogue at a country level.

Madam President,

At a recent international conference on Afghanistan in Brussels, we presented the Afghanistan National Peace and Development along with five National Priority Programs (NPPs), which include areas such as rural and urban development, agriculture development, infrastructure development as well as women's economic empowerment. The conference was indeed a reaffirmation of the mutual commitments made between the international community and the Afghan Government - for a long-

term partnership in support of sustainable peace, stability and development in Afghanistan including through supporting the ANPDF and NPPs.

Creating jobs and improving national productivity stand at the heart of the ANPDF and NPPs. In our model for job-creating growth, a special emphasis has been placed on private sector development, and industrial development remains key in this context.

Building on the efforts made over the past few years, the Ministry of Commerce and Industries of Afghanistan has intensified its efforts to improve the legal and policy environment for industrial development in the country. Efforts have been underway to develop the national industrial policy based on the ISID concept and we have been able to finalize our Strategic Plan 2016-2020 which provides our key priorities in areas such as access to finance and technical resources, foreign and domestic investment in productive sectors, infrastructure development, export promotion, packaging and processing and industrial parks.

Furthermore, the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency has been merged into the Ministry of Commerce and Industries with a view to bring better coordination and to further improve the business environment in the country. A series of laws have also been under revision to allow greater investment in the productive sectors.

More importantly, in July this year, Afghanistan became the 164th member of World Trade Organization which will further facilitate trade and business in Afghanistan and between Afghanistan and the rest of the world.

Madam President,

We attach a great significance to our partnership with UNIDO and I am pleased to inform that last evening the Director General and I 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 will be continuously evaluated to ensure its alignment with the relevant national priorities in Afghanistan.

Madam President,

The National Unity Government is committed towards transforming 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.

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!