



**Preparatory Committee for the
Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
Organizational session**

8 February 2021

UNIDO Statement

Thank you for giving me the floor, [Mister/Madam] Chair.

All protocols observed.

UNIDO welcomes the Organizational Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Over the past 10 years, UNIDO has implemented technical, advisory, and partnership approaches leading to the inclusive and sustainable industrialization of LDCs. UNIDO has reviewed the implementation of its Operational Strategy for LDCs (2012-2020) and extracted results of LDCs' industrial acceleration experiences and lessons learned on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. We hope to be able to present these findings at the regional review meetings of the UN LDC-V preparatory process to reflect on challenges and good practices that can feed into the formulation of the next programme of action.

[Mister/Madam] Chair,

UNIDO statistical data indicate that over the past ten years, some LDCs have shown positive¹ signals in their industrial development, while others have shown a contraction² of their industrial sector. The manufacturing value added has generally risen in developing countries' GDP, however we also note large disparities between regions and within LDCs' industrial development.

The SDG target 9.2 aims to double the share of industry in GDP in LDCs. Therefore, in preparation of the next programme of action, UNIDO would like to draw the attention of the Committee on

¹ such as: Ethiopia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Madagascar, Cambodia, among others.

² such as: Benin, Bhutan, The Gambia, among others.



the urgency to support LDCs in their graduation path via the acceleration of technical and advisory services contributing to Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID). UNIDO believes that the next programme of action should reinvigorate political commitments towards green and circular economy, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), women's economic empowerment, and many other development efforts supporting LDCs' industrialization capabilities to achieve structural economic transformation.

During the UN LDC-V preparatory process, UNIDO highly favours the cooperation for joint-programmes, partnerships and side-events with other agencies and development partners, including Regional Economic Communities and the private sector. Some of the collaborative fields relate to the benefits of institutional frameworks for industrial development, the emergence and diffusion of advanced digital production technologies, the private-public partnerships with the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), among others.

To address the current pandemic's implications for the industrial performance of the LDCs, UNIDO Response Framework to COVID-19 was built on three steps to (i) "prepare and contain", (ii) "respond and adapt" and (iii) "recover and transform". It is key in our common reflection on the need to "build back better", to repurpose and reinforce manufacturing productive capacities to ensure innovation in business continuity and a stronger economic recovery. We therefore remain supportive towards joint solutions for the socio-economic transformation of LDCs, including through our Field and Liaison Offices worldwide.

[Mister/Madam] Chair,

Taking note of the importance of the UN LDC-V, UNIDO stands ready to contribute to the work of the intergovernmental preparatory committee to be held in May and July 2021³ and to enhance partnerships for our shared commitment towards the socioeconomic development and graduation⁴ of LDCs.

I thank you.

³ The PRP COM will be organized in 2 parts:
Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee Session 1 on 24-28 May 2021
Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee Session 2 on 26-30 July 2021

⁴ Within the next years, 4 countries are expected to graduate: Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Bhutan, and Angola.