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UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Statement

by
Mr. LI Yong
Director General

at the
**Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of
Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)**
at the sidelines of the
75th session of the United Nations General Assembly

on
23 September 2020 (virtual session)
New York: 8:00-11:00 EST
Vienna: 14:00- 17:00 CET

Thank you [Madam/Mister Chair].

All protocols observed.

It is an honour for me to attend the Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). I hope to find you well and safe during these difficult times.

UNIDO welcomes the UN Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation of the VPoA, an important framework to implement during this Decade of Action. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) is well reflected in the UN Roadmap and contributes to several priority areas of the VPoA related to the socio-economic transformation of LLDCs.

UNIDO is operating under the full ownership of the implementing country, the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) in LLDCs such as Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Rwanda and Zambia. This innovative model, tailored to a country's development needs, creates strong inter-linkages between the different VPoA priority areas to maximize the impact on the ground. The development impact in LLDCs from PCPs is greater with joint-solutions designed in partnership, unleashing investments from the private sector, international financial institutions and development partners.

With the onset of the fourth industrial revolution (4IR), LLDCs have the opportunity to advance their economic and social development through new technologies. Yet, most LLDCs are not using or producing advanced digital technologies in manufacturing. The VPoA priority on structural economic transformation therefore requires international support to help LLDCs move up the technological ladder to remove their reliance on outdated industrial capabilities.

Partnerships are at the forefront of UNIDO's coordinated responses during these unprecedented times. UNIDO engages with UN Country Teams in LLDCs

through joint-programmes. The UN Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity, a partnership between UNIDO, FAO, ILO, UNCTAD and UNDP, is supporting the survival and resilient recovery of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises. This alliance will contribute to the acceleration of the VPoA priority on international trade and trade facilitation in LLDCs.

UNIDO is confident and committed to unlocking partnerships for the industrial and economic development potential of LLDCs in the coming years, during and beyond COVID-19.

I thank you [Madam/Mister] Chair.