

**Video Remarks for H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez,
President of ECOSOC,
the high-level opening of the 20th General Conference
of UNIDO
27 November 2023**

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for the kind invitation to address the 20th General Conference of UNIDO in my capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council.

It is a pleasure to join you today as you prepare to discuss important topics under the overarching theme of "Fair globalization: Innovative solutions for the industry of tomorrow."

I welcome UNIDO's unwavering commitment to inclusive and sustainable industrial development, a mission that has grown increasingly vital as we aim to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2023 SDG Progress Report tells us that global manufacturing growth slowed from 7.4% in 2021 to 3.3% in 2022 due to inflation, energy price shocks, supply disruptions and global economic deceleration. At the same time, energy-related carbon emissions reached a record high of 3.8 billion metric tons in 2022. And while medium-high and high-technology industries experienced strong growth in 2022, there was significant regional variation with sub-Saharan Africa sharing in only 21.7% of total manufacturing. LDCs are

likely to miss their 2030 target of doubling manufacturing share of GDP.

The SDG Summit Political Declaration reaffirmed Member States' shared commitment to the vision of the 2030 Agenda, including actions to achieve “affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, sustainable industrialization and quality, resilient, reliable and sustainable infrastructure for all.”

Through sustainable industrialization and inclusive industrial policy, we have the means to generate economic growth and address critical socio-economic needs while safeguarding the health of our planet. Exploring innovative solutions that support sustainable supply chains, limit climate breakdown, and contribute to ending hunger are integral to this objective.

Excellencies,

Let me take the opportunity to thank the Industrial Development Board for its important contribution to the review of SDG 9 at the 2023 High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF). I also thank UNIDO for its inputs highlighting ways in which SDG 9 can boost key SDG transitions. Your contribution is now more relevant than ever.

I look forward to strengthening our collaboration and I invite UNIDO to contribute to the work of the Council during its 2024 session as we seek innovative solutions to reinforce and advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in a time of multiple crises.

I particularly encourage UNIDO to actively participate in the 2024 Coordination Segment at the end of January, the Multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) and the Operational Activities for Development Segment in May, as well as the 2024 HLPF and the High-level Segment of the Council in July.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As we prepare for the Summit of the Future, we must reflect on those critical and ambitious actions that would have a transformative impact. I look forward to hearing the outcomes of this General Conference and to engaging with you all in 2024 and beyond.

I wish you successful deliberations.

Thank you.

[word count: 487]