



**Statement of Mr. LI Yong
Director General
United Nations Industrial Development Organization**

at the

**IAEA Ministerial Conference
“Nuclear Science and Technology:
Addressing current and emerging development challenges”**

**28 November 2018
Vienna, Austria**

Your Royal Highness,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank the organizers for inviting me to contribute the perspective of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on the role of nuclear science and technology in development.

As founding member of the Inter-Agency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation, UNIDO is closely engaged in the discussions on how science, technology and innovation can improve conditions in the poorest regions of the world in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Assisting our Member States in preparing for the new industrial revolution is also of increasing importance to UNIDO, as the convergence of traditional and digital manufacturing poses both opportunities and challenges for our society.

Modern technologies embody great potential for value addition, enhanced productivity, increased efficiency, connectivity, and green growth.

At the same time, we must ensure that no one is left behind by rapidly advancing technologies. We need to expand our cooperation to address future challenges and to remain ahead of the game.

I am therefore pleased to note that UNIDO and the IAEA share common development objectives. This should help us to further intensify our partnership by applying innovative technologies to our operations on the ground.

While UNIDO is operating in the narrow field of industrial development, there is a broad range of possible areas of cooperation:

Tempeh, a soybean preparation widely consumed across Indonesia, is made to increase food security and nutrition as a result of seed improvement through applied nuclear techniques. With our focus on processing and value chain development, UNIDO has helped widen the scope of the programme and we are now working with IAEA and FAO on a further expansion in a new phase.

A team of UNIDO Directors visited the IAEA facilities at Seibersdorf in February and identified other areas of future cooperation: we could work together with IAEA laboratories building on UNIDO's expertise in the area of quality and compliance infrastructure, and in supporting national and regional laboratories and certification bodies.

In the context of UNIDO's Regional Centres for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, we see scope for cooperation on energy mix modeling, for example in support of energy production forecasting.

The science of today will become the technology of tomorrow. If we want to fulfill the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda for our Member States to reduce poverty, hunger and inequalities, while protecting health and safeguarding the environment and climate, partnerships for development will be crucial.

We look forward to joining hands with our partners in the United Nations system, governments and the private sector.

Thank you.