

**Statement of Mr. Stein Hansen, Director and UNIDO Representative,
Regional Hub, Bangkok, Thailand**

**At 23rd Great Mekong Sub-region Ministerial Conference, Phnom Penh,
Cambodia, November 17-18**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- It is my pleasure to participate to the 23rd Greater Mekong Subregion Ministerial Conference. I am looking forward to a meaningful interaction with member governments and the private sector to foster progress in economic cooperation, to realize the vision of a prosperous, integrated, and harmonious subregion guided by a strategy of connectivity, competitiveness and community.
- Within the framework of the SDGs, with the mandate of leaving no one behind, UNIDO acts as a specialized UN agency, the custodian of SDG 9, to promote and accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) in Member States. UNIDO's aspirations for Asia and the Pacific are aligned with GMS Strategy 2030 priorities. UNIDO already partners with ASEAN and ACMECS in order to support countries in GMS, an integrated approach will allow to leverage synergies and facilitate best practice exchange between the Asia and Pacific region in the next phase of its development.
- UNIDO will remain a trusted development partner, delivering the highest-quality operations and actively engage with the GMS Economic Cooperation Program at all levels. We want to see, by the year 2030, a world with industries that are inclusive and sustainable, driving a low-carbon, climate-smart economy that provides decent jobs and shared prosperity and that empowers all people in all countries. Therefore, I am here in Cambodia, where we have strong cooperation framework with the Royal Government of Cambodia to support Industry Development Policy, to re-affirm UNIDO's commitment to support the GMS Strategy 2030. Cambodia is the first country in Asia to pilot UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) initiative, PCP Cambodia already targets three key areas: sustainable tourism, competitive agro-industry and creative industry value chains, and industrial diversification, in

particular through the development of Special Economic Zones. The PCP is also supported by a number of interventions on cross-cutting issues. Perhaps the most urgent cross cutting issue is climate action, UNIDO supports green economic growth and climate action financing through the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN), a global network of climate and clean energy financing experts. PFAN could be an instrumental partner in tackling plastics, pollution and waste management in GMS.

- UNIDO stands ready to support the Great Mekong Subregion Governments in a number of fields, such as: the development of economic corridors (including further development of the North-South Economic Corridor, the Southern Economic Corridor, and the East-West Economic Corridor), market integration and the facilitation of cross-border trade, while addressing social and environmental concerns in a wide range of sectors. UNIDO has already a strong partnership with the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Office in Thailand for promoting Industry 4.0 implementation under the view of enhancing the opportunities behind the challenge. Thailand Industry 4.0 is driven by the EEC initiative and its implementation is advancing 10 Targeted Industries under the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) framework.
- Under Strategy 2030, UNIDO looks forward to having opportunities to work with all member states to achieve prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific and promote connectivity within and between countries to spur economic growth and further reduce poverty.

Thank you for your attention.