



**Remarks by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia,
on behalf of the G-77 and China during the
UNIDO Global Alliance on Artificial Intelligence for
Industry and Manufacturing (AIM Global) Forum
12 December 2024**

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the invitation to address you today on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the UNIDO AIM Global Forum to address the theme “*AI for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future: Industry and Manufacturing Perspectives.*”

I would like to start my remarks by stressing the paramount importance of inclusive and sustainable industrialization for developing countries, as a critical source of economic growth, economic diversification, and value addition.

In this context, the Group appreciates UNIDO's essential support in technology sharing and transfer and knowledge dissemination, and in this regard, recognizes the key role of technology and the access to enhanced financial, technological, and technical support from developed countries to developing countries, as enabler for facilitating sustainable industrialization and modernization as well as for developing sustainable and resilient infrastructures in developing countries.

But, as the G-77 has consistently emphasized, technology must serve as a means to achieve broader well-being. It should help us tackle key development challenges in critical areas such as food and nutrition, water and sanitation, and energy. In these sectors, tools like Artificial Intelligence (AI) can enhance resource efficiency, improve service delivery, and support climate-resilient practices, leading to tangible improvements in the quality of life for our people.

The rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence is reshaping the global industrial and manufacturing landscape at an unprecedented pace. For developing countries, AI is not merely another technology— it represents a transformative opportunity to accelerate productive diversification, strengthen industrial capabilities, and foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Yet, to fully harness these benefits, we must also address the challenges arising from the adoption of this technology, ensuring that AI remains ethical, fair, and accessible to all.

As highlighted in G-77 statements and documents like the Kampala Summit Outcome Document there is an urgent need to close the technological divide —both between and within countries— ensuring affordable and reliable connectivity that especially benefits women, youth, and vulnerable communities. This is not solely about improving

infrastructure; it is about empowering entire populations to fully participate in the digital age, ensuring that AI serves as a transformative force rather than another layer of exclusion.

Achieving these goals will require substantial international cooperation, including from the UN system and international financial institutions, as well as the mobilization of new resources from developed countries. In this sense, the Group calls for enhanced technology and equipment transfer, capacity building, and technical assistance tailored to the priorities and needs of developing nations, and, again, UNIDO can continue to play a pivotal role as a catalyst and facilitator for this cooperation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Technologies and AI in particular can offer a pathway to a more inclusive, sustainable, and innovative industrial future. Our task is to ensure that this pathway is accessible to all. Guided by the principles and priorities of the Group of 77 and China, and with the support of the international community, we can leverage the transformative power of AI to accelerate our collective journey towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Thank you very much.