



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E. NADA KRUGER, AMBASSADOR AND  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,**

**ON BEHALF OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE 18<sup>th</sup> GENERAL  
CONFERENCE OF UNIDO**

**ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, 3 NOVEMBER 2019**

Your Excellency Mr Eng. Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and  
Industry of UAE and President of the 18th Session of the General  
Conference

Your Excellencies Presidents, and Vice President

Honourable Ministers

Director General Li Yong

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to firstly congratulate you, on behalf of my national  
delegation and indeed on my own behalf on your election as the  
President of the 18th Session of the General Conference of the  
United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). I  
believe that with your acumen you will be able to steer this very  
important gathering to its logical conclusion. My delegation would  
also like to congratulate other Members of the Bureau and assure

you that you can count on our full support to assist as one of the Vice-Presidents of this conference.

Namibia extends her gratitude and appreciation to the United Arab Emirates for the generosity to host this Conference and the hospitality provided to our delegations since our arrival in the beautiful and very well developed city of Abu Dhabi.

My delegation aligns itself with both statements delivered by the Africa Group as well as the G77 and China.

Mr President

In line with the objective of Industrial Development which is high on our national development agenda, my Country has established the Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA), whose main purpose is the acceleration of industrial development. The core focus of NIDA is anchored on employment creation, entrepreneurship development, investment facilitation and attraction, export oriented industrial growth, import substitution, and youth empowerment. I think this is very well aligned to enhanced cooperation with UNIDO, such as the already existing joint programme between Namibia, Finland and UNIDO on Promoting sustainable bush-processing value chains.

My country continues to monitor the positive progress being made in countries where the Programme for Country Partnerships has taken off the ground. It is clear that the PCP is an important programme whose contribution to inclusive and sustainable development cannot be overlooked. It is a sum total of industrial development and it is a programme which could be replicated in all developing countries. We see good progress coming out of the programme. During the just concluded Ministerial meeting of LDCs, the UNIDO Secretariat has given us an overview of the interventions undertaken in various

countries, and the progress is commendable. On Sunday, during the Forum on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, important information and successes were shared which could serve as a basis of consideration for us the Countries looking forward to join the PCP.

In this regard, we thank the Secretariat and the Director General for their tireless efforts in the implementation of the programme in the identified countries and their willingness to expand this programme to other Member States who are ready to undertake it. The most important element of this programme is availability of technology transfer, South-South Cooperation, North-South partnerships in meeting the challenges of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. It is important that technology transfer features more in the triangular cooperation in order for the countries of the south to enjoy economic growth through PCP's.

Mr President

Namibia has been classified as an upper Middle Income Country, a classification which does not speak to the reality on the ground. The classification does not take into account the skewed income distribution and has also denied the country, access to official development financing and concessional loans. The President of the Republic, Dr Hage Geingob summed up this classification by stating: and I quote " What has proven to be a burden to our economic development is the classification of Namibia as an upper middle income country. This flawed definition and the calculation thereof, simply takes the GDP of a country and divides it by population of the country. Because Namibia has a small population, this approach results in high per capita income without considering how that income is distributed and without considering the structural

imbalances of our economy, especially income distribution"(end of quote).

In this context, Mr President, the Republic of Namibia calls upon the active involvement of UNIDO in assisting the Middle Income Countries achieve full scale industrial development through capacity building in areas such as competitiveness in trade relations, technological transfer, entrepreneurship as well as women empowerment, just to highlight few of the areas.

Mr President

Namibia welcomes the leading role played by UNIDO in the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) and in this regard, we commend the personal commitment of Director General Li Yong in carrying forward this agenda. UNIDO's commitment to mobilize resources, and to optimize innovative funding strategies, play a major role in the development of Africa's industrialisation programmes and efforts towards reaching the sustainable development goals, especially SDG 9.

With these remarks I wish the Conference successful deliberations.

I thank you.