



**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AT THE 18<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE PLENARY**

**Delivered by Ambassador Robison Njeru Githae, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs**

**ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019**

**Mr. President, H.E. Eng. Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and  
Industry, United Arab Emirates,**

**Hon. Ministers,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates and invited guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. On behalf of the Kenya Government, I would like to congratulate you and the bureau members for your election as the President of the General Conference. I am confident that under your skilful leadership we will achieve the objectives of the Conference. Allow me also to appreciate and recognize the good work done by the outgoing President and the Members of the bureau.

It is a pleasure for me to be in Abu Dhabi to participate in the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference of UNIDO. On my own behalf and that of my entire delegation, I would like to thank the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates for the warm and cordial hospitality extended to us since our arrival. I also thank the Director General Mr. Li Yong and his team for the excellent work done in preparations for the Conference.



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**Mr. President,**

2. Kenya would like to recognize the Minister for ....., H. E....., of the Republic of Azerbaijan, our newest member since 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 and warmly welcome the participation of his country in the General Conference. In the same breath, I also add my voice to those who have welcomed the participation of Antigua and Barbuda, the Federated States of Micronesia and the State of Palestine who are joining us for the first time at the General Conference.

**Mr. President,**

5. Kenya's development priority policies, anchored in the country's development Vision 2030, include the Big Four Agenda: food security, Affordable housing, Manufacturing and universal healthcare. The Government of Kenya has and will continue to allocate the necessary financial and human resources to facilitate implementation of these socio-economic development priorities. Kenya also believes that the role of UNIDO will be critical in providing the technical expertise to complement national efforts aimed out at rolling out large-scale integrated industrial parks using the Programme Country Partnership as a self-starter.

The implementation of these four priorities form part of the first phase of measures that the Kenya Government has initiated in order to ensure the attainment of Vision 2030: Transform Kenya Into a Newly Industrializing, Middle-Income Country Providing a High Quality of Life to all its Citizens by 2030 in a Clean and Secure Environment.



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**Mr. President,**

6.I would like to reiterate the support of Kenya for UNIDO key as the key specialized Agency with the mandate and expertise to coordinate all matters in respect to industrial development and cooperation. The Organization continues to prove that it is best placed to facilitate inclusive sustainable industrial development in developing countries while contributing towards the attainment of SDG 9 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, Kenya Government is enhancing collaboration with UNIDO in order to implement PCP as a self-starter, an invaluable contribution to manufacturing under the Big Four Agenda development priorities. I would like to confirm that the Government has commenced putting in place the necessary infrastructure to facilitate investment and functionality of the integrated industrial parks, starting with the Suswa, Dongo Kundu. We acknowledge that the role of UNIDO will be crucial and therefore thank the Director General for supporting the PCP self-starter initiative, which could be a viable future for the PCP. Further, we acknowledge and urge all donors and development partners to support Kenya Government efforts, including raising awareness about it and encouraging the respective private sector's investment and its financing. We project, in the next five years, about half a million jobs will be created, particularly for women and youth who constitute more than 75% of the total population.

The other positive elements, include diversification of the economy from agro-based to an increased share of manufacturing sector in the Gross Domestic Product, improved socio-economic status of the Kenyans, improved food security, growth in experts' potential, and ultimately strengthen the pace of overall economic growth and achievement of the targets of the 2030 Vision. Kenya strongly believes that our efforts will be a concrete example on how at national level the Government can collaborate with UNIDO and other partners in contributing to the implementation of IDDA III.



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**Mr. President,**

7. While counting on the support of UNIDO and donors, we would like to emphasize on the need to utilize best practices from the PCP pilot countries and other successful Country Programmes within the Organization's membership. Kenya believes that by applying the best practices in PCP self-starter, UNIDO will facilitate the Government achieve the results in a sustainable and timely manner and direct the scarce resources to critical areas. The Kenya Government, therefore, requests that lessons learnt from pilot countries be taken into account when assisting the Government to design and implement PCP as a self-starter. Further, Kenya welcomes the participation of partners in the PCP self-starter initiative through public and/or private sector investment through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation to help support the Initiative's implementation in a sustainable manner.

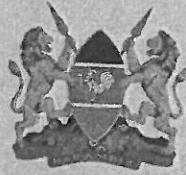
**Mr. President,**

8. I would like to touch a little on Industry 4.0 and the fourth industrial revolution. Kenya is one of the countries seeking sustainable partnership and support, particularly in terms of technical assistance, capacity building and transfer of technology in order to complement Government efforts in aligning the integrated industrial parks to Industry 4.0. The support would ensure that innovation and research are incorporated in the national policy on smart cities as well as in the integrated parks and that Kenyans are equally equipped with appropriate skills to work in the industries therein.



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9. I couldn't agree more with my colleagues who have pointed that technical cooperation remains a priority and core activity of UNIDO through which support should be channeled to the Member States, depending on needs and national socio-economic development priorities. On this Kenya would like to stress on the need to recognize the different levels of development, middle income and least developed countries and even within these categories. As a lower middle-income country, we call for the spotlight to also remain on us in order to sustain efforts of industrialization. In this context, we call for more budget allocation to technical cooperation related activities.

**Mr. President,**

10. Kenya would like to add her voice to those who have spoken and encouraged the Director General to proactively play a role in the on-going United Nations Development System and ensure that UNIDO takes full advantage of the new structure in executing its mandate and delivering services to Member States. We acknowledge that the reforms are costly but necessary. To this end, the impact should, therefore, not adversely hamper technical cooperation, field network and its operations and staff in the Headquarters and field offices.

Kenya reiterates her commitment to support the Organization, including through paying her assessed contributions in time and full and equally remains available to actively contribute to the Director General's efforts, in this regard, to safeguard the interests of UNIDO.

**Thank you, Mr. President.**



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