

**AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT AT THE 48TH SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT BOARD, 23RD-25TH NOVEMBER 2020,
DELIVERED BY H.E. MOHAMED MEZGHANI, AMBASSADOR AND
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TUNISIA**

Mr President

On behalf of the Africa Group, I wish to congratulate Your Excellency, Ambassador Darmansjah DJUMALA, Permanent Representative of Indonesia, on your election as the President of the 48th Session of the Industrial Development Board. Rest assured of our full cooperation and active participation on matters of great importance to the Group and the organisation. I would also like to congratulate other Members of the Bureau for their election. The Group would also like to pay tribute to the President of the 47th Session, H.E. Ambassador Senen Florensa Palau, Permanent Representative of Spain and other Members of the outgoing Bureau for a job well done.

The Africa Group associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the G77 and China, by H.E. Ambassador Cleofe Natividad, Permanent Representative of the Philippines.

Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for the Year 2019

Mr President

The Group takes note of the report of the Director General for the year 2019 as contained in document IDB. 48/2. This is a comprehensive report in which the Director General outlined important milestones in areas of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. The report encapsulates important areas for economic growth, industrial development, through Programme for Country Partnerships and the Country Programme. These are important areas in the quest for Africa's development.

The Programme for Country Partnership has found its foothold on the Continent of Africa as more and more countries are gearing up to join this programme. We encourage UNIDO to assist those countries which have shown interest in this and to promote the idea to other countries which have not joined it. At the same time, we commend the commitment of the organisation and its Director General Li Yong for their tireless efforts to strengthen

cooperation and knowledge sharing among Member States and the relevant stakeholders as they continuously strive for the promotion and facilitation of the South and North-South as well as triangular cooperation.

The Group also commends the Director General for his involvement in Pre TICAD events which built a momentum for the 7th Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development, held in Yokohama, Japan in August 2019. At t the TICAD event, UNIDO advocated for structural transformation and economic diversification to achieve the objective of Africa's industrial development. This made it possible for the TICAD, UNIDO to collaborate and strengthen the mandate for industrialisation programmes on Africa's developmental needs.

I thank you, Mr President.

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