

## **Nigeria's Statement at the 48th Session of the Industrial Development Board of the United Nations Industrial Development Board of (UNIDO) on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, I wish to join earlier speakers to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Darmansjah Djumala, Permanent Representative of Indonesia on your election which is an indication of the confidence reposed on you and members of the bureau to effectively steer the board to a successful conclusion. I would like to thank the outgoing President, Her Excellency Ambassador Senen Florensa Palau, Permanent Representative of Spain and your team for their outstanding work and contributions at the previous session.

2. I would like to thank Mr. Li Yong, Director General for his remarks on the 2019 Annual Report which offers an overview of the achievements, as well as challenges.

3. Mr. President, Nigeria aligns itself with the statement delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Maria Cleofe Natividad, the Permanent Representative of Philippine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and that of the African Group Statement, delivered by HE Ambassador Mohamed Mezghani, Permanent Representative of Tunisia and in our national capacity, I would like make the following remarks.

4. Nigeria commends the purposeful leadership of the Director General for his focus on promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) and the Agenda 2030. Your hard-work and transparent leadership have reposition the organization as a strategic partner of member states and a respectable player within and outside the United Nations system for the task ahead. Permit me to also extend my appreciations to the secretariat for their work in preparing for this session of the IDB.

5. Nigeria acknowledge with appreciation the implementation of the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), the progresses made in Ethiopia, Senegal, and subsequently, Morocco, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Rwanda, and Zambia, with great interest. Nigeria looks forward to the

upgrade of its CP to PCP in the next expansion phase as this is a measure that can increase UNIDO's visibility and role in its implementation of various initiatives and programs through the PCPs, which are aimed at implementing sustainable development goals in three dimensions namely: economic, social and environment.

6. My delegation wishes to thank UNIDO and all stakeholders of the (Industrial Development Decade for Africa) IDDA III for their efforts towards its full implementation and further encourage UNIDO to be more proactive, not only with the planning of programmes and projects, but to also factor in result based approaches in its implementation so that IDDA III will not go the way of IDDA II which sadly ended without concrete results.

7. Nigeria commends UNIDO in the area of efficiency gains made in recent years and the continuous rise in voluntary contribution and the slight improvement recorded for regular budget in 2020 and urge the Secretariat to also raise its bar on the collection of assessed contribution to achieve an equilibrium between the two main sources of funds in spite of the current economic turndown.

8. Nigeria welcomes UNIDO's continuous efforts to promote transparency and accountability of its work through the Medium-term Programme Framework (MTPF) and the integrated results and performance framework (IRPF). Such monitoring and reporting tools better aligns the organization's performance and results in line with the mandate of UNIDO towards the implementation of ISID and SDGs.

9. Nigeria is confident even in the wake of its current financial situation on account of the United Nations development system reform and the Covid-19 which has exacerbated the situation of existing problem therefore call for more commitments from Member states to the Organization. Nigeria remains committed to working with UNIDO to actualize its new accelerated Country Programme, signed in 2018 to the tune of sixty Million USD for the period 2018—2022 and to timely meet its obligations to the Organization.

10. Mr. President, Distinguished delegates, taking into account the critical role industrialization plays in economic growth and development of any country and the correlating need for partnerships, my delegation would like to further stress the need for donors and partners support for UNIDO in the phase of the on-going global Covid-19 pandemic crisis to enable UNIDO pull through the post pandemic era ahead to continue tenaciously in upholding its mandate in the field of trade capacity building and job creation, agribusiness, particularly for LDCs and MICs.

10. In conclusion, Nigeria wishes to reiterate its calls on UNIDO membership to re-consider as an open option, the possibility of a unified agreement on the forfeiture of unutilized balances across all the membership as demonstrated voluntarily by some member state at the last General Conference in Abu Dhabi which gesture led to the realization of a Million Euros to close the funding gap and to also underline the need to ensure that the effect of some identified measures through UN Coordinator system and the expectant economic output drop in member states due to the pandemic, does not hamper the implementation of ongoing technical cooperation activities, personnel, and field networks as this could be a sustainable measure that could facilitate UNIDO's recovery from its financial situation.

11. Finally Mr. President, we thank UNIDO for its technical support and effective partnership with Nigeria particularly in the areas of Scaling up of Nigeria's New Country Programme implementation process.

12. With these remarks, Nigeria takes note of the Annual report 2019 of the Director General as contained in documents IDB.48/3

Thank you.