

**Statement of the Ethiopian Delegation at the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of UNIDO Industrial IDB Item**

**9. Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa**

**Mr President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Please allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you Mr president for your election as president of the IDB.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/293 has mandated UNIDO to develop, operationalize and lead the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa 2016 - 2025 (IDDA III) and enhance technical assistance and resource mobilization in support of African countries. I would like to thank the Director General of UNIDO, Mr LI Yong for his dedication and hard work in promoting concrete programmes aimed at advancing the implementation Africa's industrialization agenda.

For African countries, industrialization is not a choice but a necessity and an important precondition for structural transformation and creating decent and productive jobs for the millions of young Africans that join the labour market every year. As latecomers to industrial development, African countries and their Governments have realized this fact - hence their commitment to promoting industrialization, as stipulated in African Union's Vision 2063 - "The Africa We Want". The successful negotiations and the signing by 53 countries of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (**AfCFTA**) and the ratification by thirty countries is a clear testimony of this commitment. The **AfCFTA's** primary objective is not only to boost intra-Africa trade but to be a major driver of regional value addition and a source of Africa's transformative industrialization. UNIDO's unreserved support in realizing the goals of the AfCFTA and the IDDA III will be critical.

**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies and**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

In that regard, Ethiopia's commitment to industrial development is evident in the country's recent success in export-led industrialization strategy, a record level attraction of productive investment and the development of a new generation of industrial parks to create carbon-

neutral and innovative industrial eco-system. Ethiopia's rapid growth - a 10.5 percent GDP growth for over 15 years - has contributed to fostering the country's industrialization path. More recently, Ethiopia's "Home-Grown Economic Reform Agenda" has been launched with a view to correcting macroeconomic imbalances and accelerating economic transformation and sectoral reforms. As the name implies, the Home-Grown Reform Agenda is an internally-driven policymaking process reflecting the government's commitment to strengthen the export-led industrialization strategy and a shift towards private sector-led growth and development.

I wish to express my thanks and sincere appreciation - on behalf of the Government of Ethiopia - to UNIDO and its Director General, Mr Li Yong for the continuous and valuable support to Ethiopia's industrialization agenda, including through UNIDO's *Programme for Country Partnership (PCP)*. UNIDO's assistance, particularly in the development of integrated agro-industrial park has been extremely valuable and will help lay the foundation for the establishment of vibrant and competitive manufacturing enterprises that will enable the country to boost its export capacity, create linkages between agriculture and manufacturing, generate employment opportunities, reduce poverty and achieve the SDGs.

**Mr. President,**

**Excellences and**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Let me finalize my brief statement by reiterating Ethiopia's unwavering support to UNIDO and the organization's novel mandates. I wish to reassure you, Mr. President, and the members of the Industrial Development Board, Ethiopia's commitment to IDDA III and Africa's vision of creating a prosperous, industrialized and technologically advanced continent by 2063. UNIDO has the opportunity to play a proactive role in post-Covid 19 decade to promote a productive and sustainable industrial development, narrow international inequalities and help developing countries achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals.

**I thank you for your attention.**