

**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**

Agenda Item 7: UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Mr President,

The African Group takes note of document IDB.48/14 containing the report by the Director-General on UNIDO's continued efforts towards the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals particularly Goal 9 on Industry Innovation and Infrastructure. The need to achieve the SDGs remains evermore critical as the international community struggles to recover from the setbacks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Group appreciates the release of UNIDO's flagship publication, the Industrial Development Report 2020 which examines how countries can make progress in Goal 9 as well as the publication "Industrialization as the Driver of Sustained Prosperity", which explains the key role of Goal 9 in advancing the SDGs by elucidating the positive links between industrialization and the socio-economic and environmental SDGs.

At the same time, the Group welcomes the continued key focus on the Programme for Country Partnerships and the Country Programmes as these are particularly important in achieving a developmental impact in implementing countries. The addition of more African countries into these programmes is further encouraged.

The Group further appreciates UNIDO's approach in strengthening on-going and new partnerships with financial institutions and the private sector in order to fulfil its mandate to accelerate the achievement of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID).

The Group remains committed to support the work of UNIDO in its sustained efforts in the pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and calls on all Member States to continue their active support and contribution to this Organization.

Thank you Mr President.