

**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 9 Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa

Mr President,

The Africa Group appreciates the presentation of the Report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa and in this regard, would like to thank the Director General and the secretariat for their efforts in addressing the matter.

The Group would like to further thank the Director General for his untiring efforts to sensitise the global community about the IDDA III and the mobilisation of resources towards this noble programme.

The Group further notes that the appointment of champions of the programme added an impetus in creating awareness and fostering international cooperation and partnerships towards the total implementation of the Roadmap. The Group further encourages the inclusion of more champions to take this into new heights and globalise the intended outcomes.

Furthermore, the Group is worried that we are now entering the fifth year since IDDA III was launched in 2016, and since then, the agreed Secretariat has not yet been established. This situation makes the Africa Group very concerned due to the absence of a fully functioning Secretariat to drive the Roadmap of the programme, and with five years remaining, we are not sure how much will be achieved.

The Group believes that the operationalisation of the Secretariat, will have significant impact on the engagement with various international financial institutions and thus bring in needed expertise to implement the envisaged projects. Having said that, the Group urges UNIDO to act, as matter of utmost urgency to operationalise the Secretariat by January 2021. .

In conclusion, the Group would highly appreciate if the Secretariat of UNIDO could give a briefing in the first week of December 2020 to all Member States regarding its proposed structure of IDDAIII Secretariat and the details of the selection process, as well as the timeframe for allowing the new staff to assume their duties by January 2021, if possible.

I thank you.