



Agenda Item 9: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa

Mr. President,

1. The Group 77 and China took note of the Report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) and would like to express its appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat in this respect.
2. The Group believes that one of the most essential and pressing priorities in terms of implementing the IDDA III is the quick assignment of the Secretariat staff that will be mandated to implement and follow up the various strategies and policies related to IDDA III. The Group hopes that the Secretariat staff of IDDA III will be able to start their functions by January 2021 considering that more than 4 years have elapsed since the beginning of the time frame of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016 - 2025), and the Group is convinced that any further delay in this respect would be unjustified.
3. The Group would like to reiterate also its conviction that the active engagement of the secretariat in Vienna with the Permanent Missions, and the field offices with the competent National Authorities in the African countries, is essential in the successful planning and implementation of IDDA III. It is vital at this stage that there should be clear strategies and plans at the national, regional and continental levels that aim at executing measurable projects that will help national governments develop their inclusive and sustainable industrial policies and boost the regional and continental cooperation.
4. Furthermore, the Group is keen that the secretariat of UNIDO expands its contacts with the African Union and to develop more concrete plans of cooperation and complementarity in order to synergize the efforts and avoid duplication.
5. Finally, the Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation for the donor countries and International Institutions that seek to make IDDA III a successful endeavor through their support for the collaboration between the African countries and UNIDO, and that includes, among others, the European Union, Japan, Switzerland and Italy.

Thank you, Mr. President.