



**STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED
BY
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

AT THE 48th SESSION OF THE UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

23-25 NOVEMBER 2020

**Vienna
Check against delivery**

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

Mr President,

The Republic of South Africa remains committed to the UN's Agenda 2030 especially as we move towards growing our economy and society. Our 6th Administration has embarked on implementing sectorial masterplans that focuses on key industrial sectors of our economy so that we focus on our strengths and efforts in collaboration with organised labour, industry and other stakeholders to ensuring the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic development. We are also on the path to ensure that the state apparatus is not abused and that it is indeed an enabling contributor to building as sustainable economy – within this context we are working collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure our industrial development works to address the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment that South Africa faces.

Mr President,

Within the scope of Circular Economy, we are developing a scientific knowledge base for transition to a circular economy with our agencies currently undertaking scoping exercising. We are also embarking on implementing a pilot programme within the Clothing, Textiles, Footwear and leather sector in collaboration with UNIDO the pilot phase rollout will support the promotion of sustainable circularity and promotes the employment and empowerment of marginalised communities, especially women and youth within South Africa – working with the Dept. of Environmental Affairs, forestry and fisheries and other govt. agencies we intend to expand the circular economy awareness and rollout to other sectors.

My delegation appreciates UNIDO's efforts to support the implementation of a circular Economy with the Republic of South Africa and requests UNIDO's continued support to the alignment of circular economy within all sectors of our economy and in the implementation of programmes to ensure sustainable use of our resources, upskilling of society to meeting the disruptions, the challenges and opportunities of technological advances and its impact of the future of work. Our partnership within the global community and with the UNIDO to ensuring the success of the implementation of

Circular Economy is most welcomed and appreciated – we request our global partners support our efforts and channel demand for goods from South Africa in this regards.

I thank you