

BANGLADESH

Statement by Ambassador Muhammad A. Muhith
on Agenda Item 09: The Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III)
at the IDB#48, UNIDO, Vienna, 23-25 November 2020

Mr. President,

Bangladesh takes note of Report by the Director General on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) and the progress made in the matter. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Group of 77 and China. I wish to make the following statement on the agenda item -09 in my national capacity.

Bangladesh is a strong supporter of “Networked Multilateralism” as well as of intra-regional cooperation. We are in the process of exploring possible bilateral trade agreements with African countries in diverse areas, including agriculture and agro-industries.

Bangladesh has become one of Asia’s most remarkable success stories in recent years, moving rapidly to a high-value, knowledge-intensive society, beyond apparel manufacturing, and has the potential to be 26th largest economy in the world by 2030.

In the context of IDDA III, we suggest a few examples of potential areas of cooperation that could be explored which are as follows:

- The youth comprises a large proportion of Bangladesh and African countries. Possible avenues of collaboration could be discussed with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), of which Bangladesh is an active member, on youth training and employment in industrial sectors, in particular, agro-industries and SMEs. Dhaka was selected to host the OIC youth capital conference in July 2020.

- As one of the founding members of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and host to its new regional hub in Dhaka, established in September 2018, Bangladesh could look into means of cooperating with IsDB in exploring potential application of the bank’s recently-developed Assessment Framework for National Ecosystems for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (October 2020), to assist IDDA3 implementation.

-Bangladesh is one of the Vice-Chairs in the Coordination Bureau for the Least Developed Country Group (2018/2021). UNIDO collaborated with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLLS) to organize the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Similar Global Forum discussions on ISID in the context of IDDA III and developing intra-regional cooperation could also be explored.

Thank you Mr. President.