

STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 12
AT THE 49TH SESSION OF UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
BOARD,
DELIVERED BY H.E. NADA KRUGER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Madame President

When we assess development cooperation with middle-income countries, it becomes clear that countries in this category continue to face serious challenges in inclusive and sustainable industrial development, with constraints that prevent them from reaching their goals around poverty eradication, inequality, external debt and environmental vulnerabilities, among others.

Despite sharing the same categorization, middle-income countries (MICs) are highly diverse, and their homogenous classification does not adequately reflect the myriad of challenges faced by these countries and excessively simplifies the complexities of the countries it encompasses.

Namibia therefore welcomes UNIDO's development of the Strategic Framework for Partnering with Middle Income Countries and the related workplan and the focus on areas where the Organization holds comparative advantages.

Namibia has made good progress in a number of SDG targets through pro-poor policies. Yet, it remains one of the most unequal societies in the world, and we believe, as I have stated on previous occasions, that the single indicator of per capita income does not reflect the complex nature of the development challenges of Middle-Income Countries. This flawed approach should be complemented with other indicators for determining practical and comprehensive strategies to address development needs.

Madame President

We are looking forward to UNIDO's continued efforts to address the various dimensions of industrial development and assist middle-income Member States in meeting the objectives of Goal 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals. With these comments we take note of the Report of the DG as contained in document IDB.49/20.