

STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 10
AT THE 49TH SESSION OF UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
BOARD,
DELIVERED BY H.E. NADA KRUGER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Madame President

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Group of 77 and China as well as the Africa Group.

The IDDA III programme, in its efforts to support Countries to effectively implement their development strategies, is an important element in the quest for Africa's industrialisation agenda, and within this context, it is encouraging that eight PcPs were being implemented in 2020 and that 7 new programmes are under formulation. It is important to further strengthen and streamline the Programme for Country Partnership.

Industrialization remains a challenge for many countries in Africa including Namibia. Namibia has a relatively developed infrastructure compared to many African countries but a shortage of skilled labour and inadequate infrastructure (water, electricity and roads) are affecting competitiveness and constraining industrialisation. The country's vast size and thinly spread population make the provision of roads, electricity network and water supply expensive. Namibia's dry climate and unpredictable and low rainfall pattern, insufficient water resources are a major challenge.

We appreciate the steps taken by UNIDO in the development of the Joint IDDA III Roadmap with concrete programmatic activities and timeframe, in conjunction with the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Agencies, the Regional Economic Communities and Africa Development bank as well as other International donors. *We noted the progress made towards setting up the IDDA III secretariat.* *→ realization*

The appointment of IDDA III Champions have added impetus to the important work of UNIDO, in creating awareness, mobilisation of financial resources and fostering partnerships towards the acceleration of the implementation of this project.

In conclusion, Mr President, the African continent has put in motion the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), it is the largest Free Trade Area in the world with a combined Gross Domestic Product of 2.6 Trillion US \$ and a population of 1.6 Trillion as part of its quest for intra-African trade, development, industrialisation, job creation, value addition, youth empowerment and value addition to Africa's products. UNIDO's collaboration towards development of national strategies for implementing the AfCFTA is welcomed.

With these comments my delegation has taken note of the Report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) as contained in document IDB.49/13 - PBC.37/13, and the progress reported therein.

Thank you very much.