

**AGENDA ITEM 18: RECOMMENDATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST  
OF DIRECTOR GENERAL TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E  
H.E. Mr. Albert MUCHANGA , Special Envoy of the African Union and Commissioner  
for Economic Development, Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission, ON  
BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

*To be delivered prior to voting-process*

Thank you Madam Chair

1. UNIDO occupies a unique place within the United Nations family of specialised organisations. It is the only organisation that has a very specific mandate that is directly linked with sustainable industrialisation and development, which work hand in hand. It contributes directly to the achievement of the SDGs, which guide both national and regional frameworks for development. This is particularly important for Africa and other developing countries, which are still lagging behind in industrialisation and have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. In order for the developing world to reach its full potential and recover from the pandemic, it is imperative that UNIDO has a proper understanding of unique dynamics that underpin developmental efforts. In this regard, the Africa Group firmly believes UNIDO requires the expertise of a leader who has a proven track record in the development field and has made a tangible difference in his community and in the lives of the people. A leader who intuitively understands that the developing world does not require a one-size –fits-all-approach but rather is agile and bold in his decision-making process and has solid academic qualifications and requisite policy making experience. A leader who puts developing country interests at the forefront and is committed to ensuring that the benefits of industrialisation are shared by all countries.