

**Statement of Nigeria at the 49th Session of the
Industrial Development Board of the United Nations
Industrial Development Board (UNIDO)
12th – 15th July, 2021.**

Madam President

The Nigerian delegation wishes to join earlier speakers to congratulate Your Excellency on your election to Chair the Bureau in the next one year. We are also grateful to the Ambassador of Indonesia, the outgoing Chair for his outstanding work and contributions in the previous session.

2. Nigeria aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the G77 and China and the Africa Group. I would like make the following remarks in our national capacity.

3. I would like to thank Mr Li Yong, Director General for his comprehensive Annual Report 2020, highlighting the successes, achievements and focus of the Organisation in the past year.

Madam President

4. Nigeria commends the focus of the leadership of UNIDO on the promotion of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) and the Agenda 2030. We recognise the role of UNIDO as a strategic partner of member states and respectable player within and outside the United Nations system in promoting industrial development.

5. Nigeria continues to adapt its industrial development strategies to new realities and situation. In this context, we are pleased to announce the decision to upgrade our Country Programme (CP) to the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) in order to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation as well as facilitate the mobilization of resources to achieve larger development. We also acknowledge the progress made in the implementation of PCP

by many African countries to achieve sustainable development goals in three dimensions namely: economic, social and environment.

Madam President

6. My delegation wishes to reiterate our appreciation to UNIDO and all stakeholders of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa IDDA III for their efforts so far, and urge UNIDO ensure its full implementation, especially the operationalization of its Secretariat in order to speed up development in the continent.

7. Taking into account the critical role industrialization plays in economic growth and development of any country and the correlating need for partnerships, my delegation wishes to stress the need for donors and partners' support for UNIDO in the light of the on-going global Covid-19 Pandemic. This is to enable UNIDO pull through the post pandemic era to continue upholding its mandate in the field of trade capacity building and job creation, agro-business, particularly for LDCs and MICs.

8. In conclusion, we request for UNIDO's technical support and effective partnership in the implementation of our upgrade from Country Programme to Programme for Country Partnership.

9. Let me end my remarks by extending Nigeria's warm congratulations to Mr Gerd Muller on his election as the new Director General of UNIDO and to assure of Nigeria's cooperation and full support in the discharge of this important assignment.

10. Thank you.