



STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED
BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
AT THE 50TH SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
AGENDA ITEM 3: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR 2021

21-23 November 2022

Vienna
Check against delivery

Mr President,

Allow me to congratulate you on your election as the President of the IDB as well as the other members of the Bureau to this 50th Session. South Africa wishes to assure you of our full cooperation and support. We are confident that under your able leadership we will have a successful session.

From the onset South Africa aligns itself to the statements delivered on behalf of the Africa Group and the Group of 77 and China.

My delegation wishes to reiterate the call by the G77 for greater efforts to be made to synchronize the holding of policy making bodies of the UN organizations as this negatively impacts on our engagement, especially. While we understand that due the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022, the year we resumed our in-person 2022 was bound to be busier than other years.

Mr President,

South Africa takes notes of the annual report of the Director General for the year 2021 pertaining to the progress made in the implementation of UNIDO's projects and programmes. As the key Organisation leading the practical implementation of the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development in line with the Lima Declaration, we are encouraged by UNIDO's role in supporting developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals with a view to enhancing productivity to make a meaningful contribution to eradicating poverty and creating employment.

South Africa welcomes UNIDO's efforts in advancing technical assistance and capacity building programmes to Member States and we are pleased to note that UNIDO's service delivery in terms of technical cooperation implementation in 2021 reached US\$179.4 million despite the continuous challenges faced by the Organisation. We urge the Director-General and the Secretariat to continue expanding technical assistance to developing countries, with able support from international

partners and donors to achieve comprehensive and inclusive sustainable industrial development.

Mr President,

My delegation is pleased to note that the annual report highlights significant project implementation in South Africa during the reporting period including the Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme (GEIPP); the Industrial Energy Efficiency (IEE) improvement programme; as well as the project to support transitioning from conventional plastics to environmentally sustainable alternatives. UNIDO is currently implementing various national projects in South Africa in addition to other projects within the SADC and Eastern Africa regions including, amongst others; the Organic waste-to-energy and other low carbon energies in SMES and micro-scale enterprises project; as well as the Cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs programme.

We note UNIDO's endeavours in the implementation of the IDDA III following the establishment of the IDDAIII Secretariat. We acknowledge the contribution of the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Partnerships (CPs) in the implementation of the IDDAIII and we are further pleased to note that these programmes have in the African Continent within the reporting period. To this end, we reiterate the need for UNIDO and our development partners to develop approaches that align the strategies of the IDDA III with those of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA).

South Africa welcomes UNIDO's active role and involvement with the African Union Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification in Africa which is taking place this week (20-25 November 2022) in Niger. The Summit highlights Africa's renewed determination and commitment to Industrialization as one of the central pillars in attaining the continent's economic growth and development goals as articulated in Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. We look forward to the successful outcome of the Summit which will provide a renewed high level political resolve and commitment to accelerate Africa's Industrialisation alongside advances on the AfCFTA provisions. We further encourage UNIDO to enhance its collaboration with

the premier African body to complement industrialisation efforts undertaken on the continent.

Mr President,

In conclusion, allow me to reaffirm South Africa's support for UNIDO especially in facilitating sustainable industrial development in developing countries and its tangible contribution towards the achievement of SDG 9 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We wish this 50th Session of the IDB success.