



Agenda item 7 South Africa: Intervention on the IDDA 3

Thank you, Mr President,

1. At the onset, South Africa aligns itself with the statements delivered by the African Group and the G77 and China
2. Africa is home to approximately 1.4 billion people and holds vast potential to contribute to the global agenda of sustainable development. However, it is lagging behind in industrialisation which has impeded its economic transformation. Thus, any technical assistance initiatives to enhance industrialisation on the continent need to be strongly linked to domestic economies through the creation of innovative partnerships that address the specific needs of Africans.
3. In this regard, South Africa takes note of the report of the **Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa** (2016–2025), which outlines the progress made by UNIDO in the implementation of various programmes and projects to scale up its technical assistance to African countries to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) for the successful implementation of the IDDA III.
4. South Africa commends UNIDO in expanding its flagship Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), the latest being developed for Nigeria which brings the total number of PCPs in Africa to 10, including 6 under implementation in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, and Zambia and 4 under formulation for Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania.
5. We are also pleased to note the steady increase of country programmes (CPs) in Africa with seven under implementation in Angola, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritania and Nigeria and another eight under formulation, namely: Benin, Burundi, Cabo Verde, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Sierra Leone and Uganda. We are confident that alignment with the national agenda and developmental priorities, the Country Programmes will greatly assist in accelerating inclusive and sustainable development.

Mr President

6. We are also pleased to note that the programmes have also focused on empowering African youth and women who contribute significantly to the economic development of the Continent. Women are mostly employed in the informal sector and work under challenging circumstances. Their economic empowerment will greatly assist in addressing gender

equality and poverty eradication. Special reference is made to UNIDO's collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in Mali to support agropastoral women in the management of risks linked to environmental degradation in areas at risk of inter-community conflict.

7. Africa has a huge youth dividend which should be harnessed for the betterment of the continent. In this regard, we commend the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UNIDO's joint programme on Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA) to accelerate job creation in the agribusiness sector and encourage further initiatives that would assist the youth in propelling Africa's industrialization ambitions.
8. South Africa also commends UNIDO's continued and active participation in the AU Summit on Industrialisation and Economic Diversification currently underway in Niger and express our support for a renewed continental industrialization strategy to effectively support AfCFTA implementation.
9. Lastly **Mr President**, South Africa encourages UNIDO to finalise the recruitment process to operationalize the IDDA III Secretariat and fast-track the objectives set out in the roadmap.

I thank you.