

STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN GROUP DURING THE UNIDO 50TH
SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB), TO BE
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR PHILBERT ABAKA JOHNSON,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GHANA

AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. President,

1. The African Group associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. The Group takes this opportunity to commend the efforts of Chair of the 38th Session of the Programme and Budget Committee of UNIDO, His Excellency Ambassador Alessandro Cortese, Permanent Representative of Italy, as well as his bureau for a sterling work done at the Session.

Mr. President,

3. The Africa Group takes note of the Report of the External Auditor on the accounts of UNIDO for the financial year 2021, and thanks Mr. Alexei Kudrin and the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation for the report.
4. The Group notes the unqualified audit opinion of the External Auditor regarding UNIDO's financial statements, which are in compliance with UNIDO's financial regulations and rules, as well as with the law.
5. The Group notes that almost half of the 31 recommendations provided in the current report are of high and critical priority and that 12 proposals to innovate are aimed at inspiring UNIDO to continue growing.
6. The Group notes UNIDO's efforts in resolving some of the key audit observations and would like to encourage the management in its efforts to fully comply with the External Auditor's recommendations.

Mr. President,

7. The African Group takes note of the Report of the Director General on the Financial Situation of UNIDO, including unutilized balances of appropriation as of 31st March 2022.
8. The Group notes with appreciation that the collection rate of assessed contributions has improved to 35.2% in 2022 as compared to 32.4% in 2021 and 31.9% in 2020, respectively.
9. In this regard, the Group commends the Member States who have paid their assessed contribution on time, and urges those who are yet to pay, to do so. Indeed, further delays may impact on the Secretariat's operations and major

activities and ultimately on the effective and efficient execution of UNIDO's mandate.

10. The Group further appreciates the efforts of the Director General in reaching out to former Member States to settle their arrears including advances to the Working Capital Fund and urges him to continue his efforts to improve the financial situation of the Organization.

Mr. President,

11. The African Group appreciates the work undertaken by the Informal Working Group on Programme and Budget Committee (IWG) and believes it is a valuable platform for both the Secretariat and Member States to deliberate and explore possible recommendations on important issues, including the programmes and budget of UNIDO, efficiency and effectiveness of the programmes and budget implementation, the financial situation of UNIDO and gender equity, geographical representation and personnel matters, which are of deep interest to the Group.

I thank you Mr. President.