

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

**AGENDA ITEM 7: THE THIRD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
DECADE FOR AFRICA (IDDA III)**

*Thank you, Mr. President*

Before I make the substantive statement on this agenda item, the African Group would like to make the following preliminary statement.

The African Group has taken note of the nomination of three Deputy Director Generals, including Mad. Fatou Haidara, the most senior African in UNIDO.

We appreciate and thank the Director General for this nomination and it is our fervent hope that the nomination of Deputy Director Generals will reach the objective of increasing the efficiency of the organization by further empowering the Managing Directors.

We will also would like to stress the importance of a balanced regional representation. The African Group expressed its concern regarding the low representation of the Africa region in the Secretariat in general and in managerial positions in particular. We call upon the DG to address this situation.

**Mr. President**

1. The African Group takes note of the Report of the Director General on the progress made in the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III), including the various activities undertaken by UNIDO with the aim of fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development on the African continent.
2. In this regard, the Group welcomes the development of a Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) for Nigeria, bringing the total number of PCPs in Africa to 10, including six under implementation and four under formulation.
3. The Group further welcomes the implementation of a number of projects under the PCPs namely, the development of an integrated agro-industrial park in Kenya, the establishment of the first creative hub to support creative industries and entrepreneurship with a focus on leather and leather products in Ethiopia, and the development of the second phase of the integrated industrial park in Senegal as well as several other projects implemented to stimulate agribusiness and the agro-industry, and in support of entrepreneurship development in Africa.

***Mr. President***

4. The African Group also takes note of the joint efforts by UNIDO, the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) to implement Common African Agro-Parks Programme, a large-scale initiative to create regional agro-industrial hubs across Africa.
  
5. The Common African Agro-Parks Programme, when fully implemented, will lead to increase production of agricultural products, and ensure food security on the continent, reduce Africa's food import dependency, and boost intra-African trade and investment through value addition to the agricultural products.

***Mr. President***

6. While acknowledging the efforts made in implementing IDDA III, the Group would like to encourage UNIDO to intensify its collaboration with other stakeholders of IDDA III. Effective collaboration between UNIDO and the AUC, especially in sharing of best practices and quality data collection on African Union Member States' national industrial development policies, would be helpful to the implementation of the IDDA III towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development of Africa.
  
7. To this end, the Group welcomes the collaboration between UNIDO, AUC and AUDA-NEPAD in the development of a joint programme to support the establishment of an industry observatory that is expected to serve as a central online platform to collect, analyse, monitor, and disseminate real-time industrial data.
  
8. The African Group takes note, with appreciation of the operationalization of the IDDA III Secretariat which has the mandate to follow up on the various strategies and policies being implemented under the IDDA III Road map. The Group urges for the finalization of the recruitment process and further encourages Member States to provide financial support to project funded staff and secondment of expert. The Group calls for active and regular engagement of the Secretariat with Member States to ensure effective planning and implementation of the IDDA III.
  
9. Finally, the ongoing 17<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Summit of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Niamey, Niger, which is dedicated to the issue of Africa's industrialization and economic diversification, is expected to give new impetus to the effective implementation of the IDDA III during the second half of its implementation. The Group, therefore, looks forward to the conclusions of the summit.

Thank you, Mr. President.