

**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 13: THE UNIDO'S OPERATIONAL STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR LDCS 2022–2031**

*Mr. President,*

1. The African Group appreciates UNIDO's endeavours in advancing Least Developed Countries in line with its mandate of promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. In partnership with relevant stakeholders, UNIDO has successfully delivered technical assistance and capacity building programmes as well as mobilised financial resources for its projects targeting the LDCs.
2. Many LDCs continue to face multiple structural challenges and constraints compounded by new and emerging challenges such as climate change, increased incidences of natural disasters and public health emergencies, conflicts, fluctuating commodity prices and rising capital outflows. Without a structural industrial transformation that tackles institutional and capacity constraints, the LDCs will remain vulnerable to various socio-economic, health and environmental shocks.
3. It is in this context that the Group welcomes UNIDO's contributions to the DOHA Programme of Action 2022-2031 adopted at the United Nations Headquarters on 17 March 2022 which provides an integrated and focused approach guided by the principles of shared responsibility and ownership.
4. The Group takes note of the update on the preparation process of UNIDO's operational strategy for LDCs 2022–2031 and looks forward to the endorsement of the operational strategy at the next UNIDO General Conference. Subsequent to its adoption, we call upon UNIDO and developmental partners to duly implement the operational strategy including through mobilisation of adequate resources, technical cooperation projects and programmes conforming to the priorities of the strategy and capitalising on the previous good practices of the UNIDO's operational strategy for LDCs 2011-2020.
5. The Group equally looks forward to the upcoming Fifth United Nations Conference on the LDCs scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar from 5 to 9 March 2023 which will build on the deliberations and outcomes of the ninth Ministerial Conference of the LDCs and the Doha Programme of Action 2022-2031 to mainstream its six priority areas in UNIDO's future work.

6. The African Group is committed to building a stronger and multifaceted resilience system in the LDCs and we count on the international community to advance strengthened global partnerships that effectively address the special needs of the LDCs, and contribute to the cause of peace, prosperity, poverty eradication and attainment of inclusive and sustainable development for all.

**Thank you, Mr. President.**