



**STATEMENT
BY
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

AT THE 51st SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

AGENDA ITEM 3: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR 2022

3-6 JULY 2023

**Vienna
Check against delivery.**

Mr President,

South Africa congratulates His Excellency Ambassador Magdi Ahmed Mofadal ELNOUR, on your Presidency of the 51st Session of the Industrial Development Board as well as the election of the Vice Presidents and rapporteur. We are confident that under your leadership we will have a successful session, and we assure you of our full support and cooperation.

South Africa aligns itself with the statements delivered by the African Group and the Group of 77 and China.

Mr President,

UNIDO plays a key role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through the promotion of inclusive sustainable industrial development resulting in key tangible deliverables in the fields of energy efficiency, food security, skills development, amongst others. In this regard, we commend UNIDO for the 17 percent increase in the implementation of technical projects in various areas as reported in the Director General's Annual Report for 2022.

South Africa notes the progress made in the implementation of UNIDO's projects and programmes and wishes to congratulate UNIDO for its excellent work during the past year. We also commend UNIDO for reforms undertaken to enhance organisational productivity and efficiency, in light of current financial constraints.

South Africa is pleased to note developmental achievements accomplished thus far through the flagship Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) and country programmes which included 10 African countries. We acknowledge the value of these partnerships in enhancing productivity and fostering employment opportunities and would like to encourage UNIDO to expand existing networks and mobilise more resources to aid developmental objectives on the African continent.

Mr President

We commend UNIDO for its continued efforts in the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) and other development partners. We wish to commend UNIDO for progress made on developing its Strategy for Africa 2023-2025 to guide the organisation's work on the continent and complement the African Union's vision of structural transformation and sustainable industrialisation of the African Continent, with specific reference to accelerating intra African trade through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

We express our confidence in the work of UNIDO and appreciation to Ms Fatou Haidara and Mr Victor Djembe for keeping the African Group informed of the vision behind the strategy and integrating our comments into the document.

We are encouraged by the Director-General's active engagements to enhance coordination, build technical competence, enhance productivity and expand opportunities for a wider scale of inclusive and sustainable industrial development in partnership with other important multilateral structures, UN agencies and donors.

We have also taken positive note of the increased contributions to voluntary resources and encourage Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time to ensure that UNIDO can carry out its work in a timely and efficient manner.

Allow me to conclude by expressing our support for the Annual Report of the Director General for 2022.

I thank you.