



**STATEMENT AT THE 51ST SESSION OF THE
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB) OF THE
UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION (UNIDO),
3 – 6 JULY 2023, VIENNA, AUSTRIA.**

**AGENDA ITEM 3 - ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR 2022, DELIVERED BY
H.E. MR. VASCO M. SAMUPOFU, AMBASSADOR /
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC
OF NAMIBIA TO AUSTRIA**

Mr. President, thank you for allowing me the floor.

1. Namibia associates herself with the statements delivered by the African Group and the Group of 77 and China respectively.
2. Allow me to congratulate Your Excellency, Ambassador Magdi Ahmed Mofadal Elnour of Sudan on your election as the President of the 51st Session of the IDB. Please accept assurances of Namibia's full support.
3. Our congratulations also go to other Members of the Bureau. At the same time, we pay tribute to Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz of Costa Rica, for his excellent leadership during his tenure.
4. My delegation further takes this opportunity to express our appreciation to Director General Müller, his team and the entire Secretariat for implementing the goals of UNIDO and preparations for this Session.

Mr. President,

5. Namibia welcomes with appreciation the Annual Report of the Director General for 2022 as contained in document IDB.51/2-PBC.39/2.
6. My delegation echoes DG's sentiments on the difficulties of 2022 we all endured. For Namibia, as with many other developing countries, the COVID-19 pandemic left us all in a situation of financial shock as it multiplied the already existing challenges we continue to face.

7. Regrettably, women faced the greatest socio-economic challenges. We note with concern, ILO's figures that, 2 million women had to give up work to care for families, twice the figure of men in the workforce. Much more needs to be done to redress the effects of the pandemic, specific measures addressing structural obstacles must be found and implemented to ensure women upward mobility.
8. To this end, we welcome the progress made under UNIDO's Gender Strategy 2020–2023 through ongoing trainings on gender mainstreaming, which have shown results that, UNIDO projects have significantly contributed to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Mr. President,

9. My delegation acknowledges that the Annual Report of the Director General highlights the various industrial development programmes, projects and activities carried out by the Organization during the period under review, including those implemented within the framework of existing Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CPs). The Report also informs of newly identified projects for implementation.
10. My delegation commends the Director General for the efficiency achieved during the year 2022, particularly regarding the 17% increase in the implementation of technical cooperation activities.

11. Finally, my delegation is of the firm conviction that continuous progress on this trajectory will ensure the attainment of socio-economic prosperity through industrialization for developing countries.

I Thank You.