

51st Session of Industrial Development Board of UNIDO
India statement on Agenda Item No 9: Third Industrial Development
Decade for Africa (IDDA III)
[To be delivered by Gyanveer Singh]

Thank you, Mr. President,

1. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the Group of 77 and China under this agenda item and would like to add the following points from our national perspective.

2. India believes that UNIDO is a significant contributor towards industrialisation and development of countries in Africa through its various mechanisms and projects. On its part, India has been a reliable partner for countries in Africa in the times of struggle and on their journey towards development inspired by the historical and civilizational linkages. Our partnership is multifaceted, demand driven, free of conditionalities and based on the principle of partnership among equals. India's Technical and Economic Cooperation, guided by the Kampala Principles presented by Indian Prime Minister, has steadily grown over the decades in line with growth in India's own capabilities and the requirements of the countries in Africa.

3. India has extended more than 12.3 billion \$ Concessional Lines of Credit and about 700 million US\$ in grant support to various countries in Africa. The India-Africa Development Partnership encompasses a gamut of socio-economic engagements, including in creation of physical and social infrastructure, development of skills, and knowledge transfer in education, healthcare, agriculture, and capacity building in areas like IT and ITES.

4. Since 2017, India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the UN Office of South-South Cooperation and implemented in collaboration with the UN system, has been financing demand-driven and transforma-

tional development projects across the developing world including in countries in Africa. Moreover, we are also partnering other countries under the triangular cooperation mechanism to facilitate implementation of development projects including for enhancing the capacity building of youth in Africa.

5. In recent years, the partnership has also expanded to areas like climate change, digitalization, and Industry 4.0. India has extended a concessional line of credit of 2 billion US \$ for developing off-grid solar energy projects in Africa. In June 2023, during the Global Digital Public Infrastructure Summit, held in Pune, India signed MoUs on sharing 'India Stack' with four countries including with Sierra Leone in Africa. 'India Stack' is a set of digital infrastructure protocols enabling delivery of public services to citizens at the population scale catalysing rapid transformation and social inclusion.

Mr President,

6. Like India, Africa too has one of the youngest populations on the planet. We understand that this presents opportunities as well as challenges on our of development. With our experience, we also understand that meaningful development happens when the beneficiaries participate, own, and steer the process of growth and transformation themselves. In January 2023, after assuming the presidency of G-20, India hosted 'the Voice of Global South' Summit to include the priorities, perspectives, and concerns of the developing world in the G-20 discourse. India is working with other G-20 countries to ensure a permanent seat for African Union so that the voice of the people of Africa is included in the G-20 decisions in future as well.

7. We have taken note of the activities presented in the Director General's progress report on implementation of IDDA III. We would be happy to partner with UNIDO and share India's experience of developing industry specific solutions be it digitalization or development of pharma or solar industries

or advancement of agrobusiness millets-based industries in this International Year of Millets.

I thank you, Mr President.
