

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE 51ST SESSION OF THE UNIDO INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB): 3-6 JULY 2023
Agenda Item 10: Climate-Neutral Industry and Circular Economy

Mr. President,

1. Kenya aligns itself with the statements delivered by the African Group and the Group of 77 and China on this Agenda Item - and wishes to augment these statements with a few additional observations in our national context.

Mr. President,

On UNIDO's activities related to Circular Economy:

2. Kenya acknowledges the inherent circularity of nature. Therefore, we firmly believe that adopting circular principles is not only crucial in addressing the ongoing triple planetary crises - but is also an avenue towards restoring the harmony between humanity and nature.

3. The argument for embracing the principles of the circular economy is persuasive and compelling. It has been argued that making global economies circular would unlock up to US\$ 4.5 trillion in economic growth - and create millions of jobs. Full adoption of circular economy principles would also reduce the annual volume of plastics entering our oceans by over 80 per cent, among many other advantages.

4. Kenya appreciates, therefore, the efforts by Member States to launch domestic policies and frameworks that incorporate elements of a circular economy – including various national, sub-national, and regional strategies, roadmaps, and action plans on circular economy. We also commend the influence of regional initiatives - such as the **African Circular Economy Alliance**, which continue to provide support for country groups in applying circular principles.

Mr. President,

5. Kenya continues to showcase its commitment to promoting sustainable waste management and circular economy practices for green growth. **The recent enactment of the Sustainable Waste Management Act of 2022** marks a significant milestone in this journey. The Act imposes numerous responsibilities on both public and private entities - and compels environmentally friendly and sustainable approaches to economic development and business practices. The passing of this Act adds to earlier comparable measures by the Government of Kenya, including the **Kenya Plastics Action Plan** and the **banning of single-use plastic bags**.

Mr. President,

6. Kenya, therefore, stands with fellow member states in commending UNIDO's initiative to hold the first round of global consultations on Circular Economy in 2021, as well as the series of regional preparatory meetings held in September 2022 that enabled Member States to collate initial views on the topic of circular economy and identify issues for deliberation at the next global consultations on Circular Economy. We eagerly anticipate our participation in the next rounds of global consultations in 2023 – as we believe that these consultations will play their part in engendering the swift adoption of circular economy principles and practices.

Mr. President,

On UNIDO's Strategy in Response to Climate Change:

7. Kenya takes note of the Director General's report on **UNIDO's Strategy in Response to Climate Change** and aligns with other delegations in extending gratitude to the Secretariat for drafting the Strategy – which is in accordance with previous decisions of this Board and relevant UNIDO General Conference resolutions.

8. Kenya also joins other delegations in expressing appreciation to **His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Elmolla, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt**, for his great efforts in facilitating the negotiations on the Strategy. Kenya supports the adoption of the UNIDO Strategy in response to Climate Change and joins calls for the Director General to continue consultations with Member States to formulate an action plan for the Strategy's implementation.

Mr. President,

9. Along with other African delegations, we urge UNIDO to enhance its cooperation with African stakeholders, including the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank - to offer relevant support to all the Africa-oriented initiatives announced during the COP 27 Summit in Egypt. We also join peer Member States in requesting the Secretariat to submit a report to Member States on the Organization's planned roles to support the various African Union-led climate-related policies.

10. We acknowledge the significant importance of the **Loss and Damage Fund**, launched during the COP27 Summit in Egypt last year, to developing countries. We join fellow delegations in stressing the urgency of the swift operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund – with the approach to the UN Climate Change Conference COP28 meetings in Dubai in sight. **In this respect, Kenya recognizes that UNIDO is uniquely positioned to play a pivotal role in coordinating and leveraging climate finance opportunities, including through funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage.**

Finally, Mr. President,

11. Kenya, in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), will co-host the inaugural Africa Climate Summit (ACS) in Nairobi, from 4th to 6th September 2023.

12. The Africa Climate Summit (ACS) will assemble leaders from Africa and beyond, development partners, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, academia, civil society organizations, women, and youth - and provide a platform to deliberate on the nexus between climate change, Africa's development reality, and the imperative to push for increased investment in climate action globally - **with particular focus on Africa**. The Summit will also enable African leaders to forge the needed momentum and establish common priorities ahead of the COP28 Summit in Dubai.

13. We are optimistic that UNIDO will join us and lead discussions on the role of Industry in Global Climate Action during this Summit.

We thank you, Mr. President.