

**STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN GROUP TO BE DELIVERED
DURING THE 51st SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
BOARD (IDB) OF UNIDO, BY H.E. AMBASSADOR PHILBERT ABAKA
JOHNSON, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GHANA**

Mr. President

1. On behalf of the African Group, I would like to congratulate you, **Excellency Magdi Ahmed Mofadal Elnour, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Sudan**, on your election as Chair of the 51st Session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO.
2. Allow me also to congratulate the other Members of the Bureau on their election. The Group would like to assure you of its full support during this session.
3. The Group also takes this opportunity to express its appreciation to the outgoing Chair of the 50th Session of the IDB, **His Excellency Ambassador Alejandro Edmundo Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica** as well as members of that Bureau for a sterling work done during the Session.
4. We further express appreciation to the Director General, **Dr. Gerd Müller** and the Secretariat for preparing this session.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLIMATE NEUTRAL INDUSTRY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY.

The African Group associates itself with the statement of the Group of G77 and China on climate neutral industry and circular economy.

Mr. President,

On UNIDO's activities related to circular economy

1. The African Group emphasizes the advantages of economic transformation to foster sustainable consumption and production practices. It underlines the significance of incorporating circular economy principles and digitalization technologies into industrial activities and manufacturing systems through collaborative efforts with partners.
2. The Group acknowledges the potential of a circular economy in tackling global challenges and expediting the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

3. The Group appreciates the commendable initiatives of Member States in adopting circular economy policies, frameworks, and legal structures, including the formulation of strategies, roadmaps, and action plans at different levels.
4. The Group appreciates UNIDO's successful organization of the first round of global consultations on Circular Economy. These consultations facilitate knowledge sharing on best practices, innovations, and the adoption of circular economy principles across industries and will contribute to an action plan that advances UNIDO's work and promotes inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Mr. President,

On UNIDO strategy in response to climate change

5. The Group recognizes the importance of developing the strategy, taking into consideration the severe ramifications of climate change on the life and prosperity of tens of millions of African citizens, and subsequently, the ability to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and attain Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) in Africa.
6. The Group commends His Excellency Mohamed ELMOLLA, Ambassador and Permanent of Egypt, for facilitating the negotiations regarding the UNIDO strategy in response to climate change. His commendable efforts have resulted in positive outcomes, including the attainment of a general consensus on the strategy. We hope that this strategy, in alignment with relevant agreements and treaties, will lead to the desired results.
7. The Group highlights the need to secure meaningful financial commitments and investments for Africa's renewable energy and low-carbon programmes at scale to enhance energy access and support the social and equity dimensions of the just transition pathways. In this regard, the Group underscores the need for the strategy to enhance UNIDO's current role in facilitating the transfer of climate-related clean and innovative technologies from the developed countries to African countries, in accordance with the latter's development needs and industrial policy priorities.

Mr. President,

8. The African Group stresses the need for the strategy and its action plan to strengthen activities in support of deploying sustainable technologies for electricity generation, primarily in agro industries, reinforce efforts made by UNIDO's clean energy programmes, including the Global

Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers Programme and the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme and increase the number of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPO) in the African countries and expand their services for promotion of investment and transfer of technology.

9. The Group urges UNIDO to work together with African stakeholders, including the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, to support relevant African initiatives announced during COP 27, which was held in Egypt, on behalf of the African continent, from 6 to 18 November 2022, including the Stewardship Acceleration Programme on Transition Fuels and Regulation Management (Transforma Platform) and the Alliance for Green Infrastructure in Africa (AGIA). Furthermore, the Group welcomes the establishment of the Global Renewable Hydrogen Forum and acknowledges the appointment of UNIDO as the implementation partner of the Forum.
10. The Group requests the Secretariat to report to Member States on the expected role of UNIDO in supporting the African Union-led climate related policies, including African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Transition, the Digital Green Corridor and Green Recovery Action Plan for Africa (GRAP). In this regard, the Group calls upon UNIDO to play its rightful role in spearheading the role of Industry in Global Climate Action during the forthcoming Africa Climate Week (ACW 2023) and the African Climate Action Summit, which will be held concurrently from 4-8 November 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. These two important African meetings are part of Africa's efforts to build momentum ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference COP 28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and the conclusion of the first Global Stocktake, which aims to chart the way forward for fulfilling the Paris Agreement's key goals.
11. The Group stresses the importance of the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund during COP 27 and emphasizes the importance of expediting the early operationalization of funding arrangements for loss and damage, which is planned to be announced during COP28.
12. To conclude, the Group recommends the adoption of the strategy and requests the Director General to continue consultations with Member States to develop an action plan to implement the strategy.

I thank you Mr. President.