

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

**TO BE DELIVERED BY MR. GUSTAV DOVLO,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Agenda Item 10: Climate Neutral Industry and Circular Economy

Mr. President,

1. Ghana aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Africa Group on this agenda item and wishes to make the following additional remarks.

2. The Ghana delegation takes note of the Report by the Director General on UNIDO activities related to circular economy as contained in document IDB.51/18 which outlines activities regarding the implementation of General Conference resolution GC.18/Res.7 and provides information on the latest developments relating to circular economy.

3. Ghana expresses its appreciation to UNIDO for its technical cooperation and advisory services as well as convening and partnership initiatives undertaken over the period with the aim of promoting circular economy principles in Members States.

4. Ghana underscores the important role of circular economy in addressing some of the most difficult global challenges and accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

5. In this regard, Ghana acknowledges, with appreciation, two ongoing projects with a focus on circular economy which are being implemented by UNIDO with the aim of addressing specific environmental and economic challenges. With funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the first project concerns the establishment of a circular economy framework for the plastics sector, strengthening national capacity for sustainable plastics management, preventing plastic leakage into the

marine environment, and reducing unintentional persistent organic pollutants.

6. The second project, which is being funded by the Government of Canada, is the creation of a Centre of Excellence for Circular Economy to support entrepreneurs in developing and deploying innovative circular economy business models and technology solutions.

Mr. President,

7. Ghana further takes note of the Report of the Director General on UNIDO Strategy in response to climate change as presented in document IDB.51/19 which provides updates on the preparation process of the UNIDO Climate Change Strategy.

8. Ghana expresses deep appreciation to the UNIDO Secretariat for convening development dialogue sessions with Member States to consider the draft strategy. We also join previous speakers in commending His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Hamdy El-Molla, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt, for his tireless efforts in facilitating negotiations on the text of the draft strategy.

9. Ghana reiterates the need for UNIDO to explore the prospects of utilizing climate finance funds in implementing the strategy as well as give due consideration to the special needs of the most vulnerable developing countries to climate change. In this regard, Ghana emphasizes the importance of the establishment and operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund as agreed on during COP 27.

10. Finally, Ghana supports the adoption of the Strategy and encourages the UNIDO Secretariat to continue work on the strategy by developing its action plan in consultation with Member States.

Thank you, Mr. President.