

**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 3: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR 2022

Mr. President,

5. On Agenda item 3 concerning the Annual Report of the Director General for 2022, the African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by **His Excellency Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan** on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
6. The African Group takes note of the Annual Report of the Director General for 2022 as contained in document IDB.51/2 - PBC.39/2. The Group, however, notes with reservation that the Annual Report captures UNIDO's activities in Sub-Saharan Africa separately from the rest of the continent. The Group would, therefore, like to urge UNIDO, while reporting on its activities on the continent, to capture the activities related to the entire continent, without any distinction.
7. The Group welcomes UNIDO's achievements during the year under review, despite the challenges faced. In this regard, the Group commends UNIDO for the 17 per cent increase in the implementation of technical projects during the year of the report, particularly in the areas of climate

and environmental protection, food security and renewable energies.

8. The Group commends UNIDO's ongoing organizational reforms in 2022, aimed at enhancing effectiveness.
9. The Group appreciates the importance of all initiatives, activities and programmes implemented during 2022 in Africa through the 10 Country Programme and the 9 Programme for Country Partnerships and looks forward to further expansion of the CPs and PCPs network within the continent, upon request from Member States. In this context, the Group strongly encourages UNIDO to exert more efforts towards resource mobilization for the existing programmes.
10. The Group further calls for increased support and collaboration from international donors to assist developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to achieve their industrial development objectives.
11. The Group urges the Director General to continue strengthening partnerships on the basis of South-South, North-South and Triangular Cooperation. In this regard, the Group encourages UNIDO to support Member States, especially in Africa, in facilitating technology transfer and capacity-building and emphasizes the importance of continuing to develop new partnerships with the private sector and financial institutions.
12. The Group appreciates UNIDO's work in addressing, inflation, global production slowdown, food insecurity, and other prevailing global challenges that have negatively impacted the aspirations of African countries to attain inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
13. The Group reiterates its appreciation of UNIDO's commitment to regional approaches, including aligning Member States' industrial strategies with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). We acknowledge that strengthening production systems, skills, policies, and regional value chains is essential for intra-African trade and regional development – and appreciate UNIDO's work in these areas.
14. Finally, the Group expresses its satisfaction with the growth in the portfolio of projects and programmes for future implementation to \$621.9 million of which US\$200.00 million has been mobilized, and US\$180.30 million utilized in 2022. The Group further appreciates the geographic focus of UNIDO funding partners in 2022 and prioritization of UNIDO technical cooperation activities in Africa with the amount of \$73.1 million.

I thank you, Mr. President