

**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 9: THIRD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR AFRICA (IDDA III)

Thank you, President,

The African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and would like to add the following remarks:

1. The African Group takes note of the Report by the Director General on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) as presented in document No. IDB.51/15-PBC.39/15 which contains information on progress made in the implementation of the IDDA III. The African Group notes that the report does not include UNIDO's activities in all African Members States. Hence, the Group urges UNIDO, while reporting on its activities in the continent, to include the activities related to all African Members States, without exception.
2. The Group would like to reaffirm its commitment to UNIDO as the main agency mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to lead the implementation of key priorities of the IDDA III. In this regard, the Group is

appreciative of the progress made in the implementation of IDDA III through various initiatives, including technical assistance activities, collaborative efforts, and global forums and advocacy as well as normative initiatives.

3. In particular, the Group notes, with appreciation, that during the year 2022, more than two hundred and fifty (250) projects with a total value of US\$63.3million, excluding interregional and global portfolios, were under implementation in Africa, within the framework of Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CPs). These projects cut across several sectors including agribusiness and agro-industry, trade capacity building, entrepreneurship and skills development, special economic zones and industrial parks, environment, renewable energy and energy efficiency, technology transfer and industrial policy.
4. Consequently, the Group urges UNIDO to expand the reach of the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CPs) to other Member States, upon their request. This expansion is crucial to ensure inclusive and sustainable development across the continent. The Group also emphasizes the need for UNIDO to mobilize additional resources for the existing programmes.

Mr. President,

5. The African Group acknowledges UNIDO's collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) and other stakeholders in organizing the 17th Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government on Africa's Industrialization and Economic Diversification, held in Niamey, Niger, from 20th to 25th November 2022. The subsequent development of an action plan to implement the decisions of the Session is commendable. The Group encourages UNIDO to continue its support and mobilization of partners for the successful implementation of the Action Plan under the IDDA III.
6. The Group expresses appreciation to the Director General of UNIDO for initiating the process of developing the UNIDO Strategy for Africa 2023-2025. This strategy will serve as a guiding framework for UNIDO's interventions in promoting industrial development in Africa. The Group urges the Director General to maintain consultations with Member States and stakeholders and provide regular updates on the progress of the strategy's development, aiming to complete the process before the 20th Session of the General Conference.
7. The Group further urges UNIDO to ensure synergy between the envisaged UNIDO Africa Strategy and the draft UNIDO LDC Strategy, presented at the 5th United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (UN LDC 5) in Doha, Qatar, from 5th to 9th March 2023. This alignment will prevent overlap

and ensure consistency in implementing UNIDO's industrial development initiatives in Africa.

8. Additionally, the Group encourages UNIDO, in collaboration with Member States, to develop strategies that align the deliverables of IDDA III with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Emphasizing the importance of local manufacturing, regional supply chains, energy efficiency (including sustainable alternatives), green technology, harmonization of standards and building local and human capacity to respond to shocks, will accelerate structural transformation, industrialization, economic diversification, and employment throughout Africa.

Mr. President,

9. The African Group reaffirms the crucial role of a fully established and functional IDDA III Secretariat in the comprehensive implementation of the IDDA III. This Secretariat is expected to outline the necessary strategic development interventions to support Africa's industrial transformation. Furthermore, the Group would like to highlight the importance of active and regular engagement between the Secretariat and Member States in the successful planning and implementation of the IDDA III.
10. In conclusion, the African Group urges UNIDO to enhance collaboration with Member States, key development partners, other United Nations and intergovernmental agencies, and development finance institutions to support the implementation of the IDDA III. Strengthening collaboration between UNIDO and the African Union will contribute to building technical competencies and policy knowledge, ultimately promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Africa.

I thank you.