



European Union

EU Statement on

Agenda item 9: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III)

**51st session of the Industrial Development Board (IDB)
United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)**

Vienna, 3-6 July 2023

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The following countries align with this statement: Türkiye[§], North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia*, Albania*, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina*.

Mr. President,

Referring to UNGA Resolution on the proclamation of the period 2016-2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa, we express our appreciation to UNIDO, the African Union Commission and other IDDA III partners, for the development, operationalisation and implementation of this initiative, in accordance with their respective mandates.

We further join the African Group in calling on UNIDO to have even a more proactive approach in fostering partnerships. The close coordination with other relevant UN entities and IDDA III partners in promoting the priorities of the African Union's Agenda 2063 is key, in order to ensure complementarity and maximize the development impact. Further attention should be given to sustainable public-private partnerships (PPP), especially for developing industrial parks to foster local production. We recognise the progress made in this regard, since 2016.

We take a good note of the planned activities in the Outlook section of document IDB 51/15. To advance its implementation, it is crucial that the IDDA III Secretariat is sufficiently staffed and predictably funded. The EU has provided feedback on the UNIDO draft Strategy on Least Developed Countries and looks forward to contributing to the Africa Strategy. The EU also provided comments on the related topics in the UNIDO's Regional Workshops on Industrial Policy for SDG Acceleration.

[§] Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Mr. President,

At the 6th EU-African Union Summit in February 2022, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union and the European Union, adopted a Joint Vision for 2030 which contains, inter alia, a joint commitment to multilateralism with the United Nations at its core. This was a powerful manifestation that in a world of increasing fragmentation, the EU-Africa relationship stands out as a partnership of equals that advance common goals. The Joint Vision is in line with the objectives of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want! and matches the priority the EU attaches to its “twin continent” concept, under which Africa receives the largest support from the EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027. Along with our Africa partners, we reaffirmed our support to economic integration and sustainable investment for Africa as part of the implementation of the Global Gateway strategy – the EU’s offer to narrow the investment gap, support global economic recovery and accompany the twin green and digital transition beyond Europe’s borders. Its first deliverable, the Africa-Europe Investment Package, aims to advance Africa’s economic transformation. To increase both continents’ resilience and strategic autonomy, the Joint Vision foresees targeted measures in support of private sector development, investments in infrastructure, development of norms, standards, skills and innovation to improve the economic and business environment in Africa.

Actions to preserve climate, the environment and biodiversity are another priority in the Joint Vision. In this regard, the Africa - Europe Global Gateway Investment Package provides support for the implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans of African countries under the Paris Agreement. Another common priority is ensuring access to electricity for all, through fair, just and equitable energy transition, taking into account specific and diverse orientations of the African countries.

Mr. President,

More than a half of the EU funded projects implemented by UNIDO are in Africa. They combine regional and national components and focus on enhancing the economic competitiveness by investing in local production practices and capabilities; on promoting entrepreneurship through vocational training and support for micro, small and medium enterprises, particularly those owned by women and young people; and on strengthening local value chains. As a result, countries can more easily integrate into the regional and international trading systems, including the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The EU programmes implemented by UNIDO and different green transition initiatives with our African partners directly contribute to the transformation of Africa into a continent of competitive and sustainable industrial production, in line with the vision of the IDDA III.

I thank you for your attention.