



**G-77 and China statement during the UNIDO Industrial Development Board,
51st session, 3-6 July 2023, delivered by H.E. Aftab Ahmed Khokher, Ambassador and
Permanent Representative of Pakistan**

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

Mr. President,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) as contained in document IDB.51/15 which highlights the progress made in the implementation of IDDA III.
2. The Group underscores UNIDO's role as the central coordinating agency within the United Nations system responsible for fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States. To this end, the Group expresses its appreciation to the Director General of UNIDO for initiating the process for the development of a UNIDO Africa Strategy, which will provide a common guiding framework for the Organization's interventions in promoting industrial development in Africa and urges the Director General to continue the consultations with Member States and all stakeholders and provide regular updates on progress of the development of the Strategy with the aim of completing the process before the 20th session of the General Conference.
3. The Group appreciates UNIDO's various initiatives on the continent of Africa, including technical assistance activities, collaborative efforts, global forums and advocacy, and normative activities aimed at firmly anchoring Africa on the path towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
4. The Group welcomes the collaboration between UNIDO, 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 which was held in Niamey, Niger, from 20th – 25th November 2022 and the subsequent development of an action plan for the implementation of the decisions of the Session. The Group urges UNIDO to continue supporting and mobilizing IDDA III partners for the successful implementation of the Action Plan.
5. The Group further welcomes the development of the draft UNIDO LDC Strategy which was presented to the 5th United Nations Conference on Least Development Countries (UN LDC 5) held in Doha, Qatar from 5th – 9th March 2023. The Group wishes to encourage UNIDO to work towards achieving synergy between the Africa Strategy and the LDC Strategy to avoid overlap and ensure consistency in the implementation of the Organization's industrial development initiatives.
6. The Group notes with appreciation that, in 2022, UNIDO had more than 250 projects under implementation in Africa totalling \$63.3 million excluding interregional and global portfolios, within the framework of Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CP).

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7. The Group also acknowledges with appreciation UNIDO's activities aimed at enhancing the capacities of African countries to benefit from the 4th Industrial Revolution. The Group notes UNIDO's unique position to offer strategic support in technology transfer, knowledge sharing and capacity building through educational and vocational training with enhanced focus on African women and youth.
8. To further enhance economic growth on the African continent, the Group encourages UNIDO to align with the core objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). In this regard, emphasis should be placed on building systemic resilience through local manufacturing, energy efficiency through sustainable alternatives, green technology, harmonization of standards, and building local and human capacity to respond to both internal and external shocks.
9. Taking into account the approaching conclusion of the designated term of IDDA III, the Group underscores the importance of the full implementation of the IDDA III Joint Roadmap and remains hopeful that the IDDA III Secretariat will play a more coordinated role in implementing the Joint Roadmap.
10. The Group also encourages UNIDO to continue collaborating with Member States, strategic development partners, other United Nations and inter-governmental agencies, as well as development finance institutions to support the implementation of objectives of the IDDA III. Maintaining synergies between UNIDO and the African Union will contribute towards building technical competencies and policy knowledge for the development and implementation of regional and continental industrial initiatives.
11. To conclude, the Group of 77 and China appreciates UNIDO's continued contributions to Africa's socio-economic development through the vehicle of the IDDA III.

Thank you, Mr. President.