



### Keynote Speech

**Mr. Ryad Mezzour, Minister of Industry and Trade**  
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Allow me first to extend to you, on behalf of the Moroccan delegation, our warm congratulations, for Chairing the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference. Be assured, Madam Ambassador Debora Lepre, Permanent Representative of Italy, of the full support and cooperation of my delegation.

May I also congratulate Mr. Gerd Muller, Director General of UNIDO, for his tireless efforts and strong commitment to meeting the challenges facing our organization as well as his substantial contribution to supporting developing countries in the process of industrialization.

My delegation associates itself with the statements of the G77 and China and the African Group and wishes to make the following comments on its national capacity.

**Your Excellencies,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is indeed a privilege to be today in the midst of such a distinguished gathering at this session. **The theme "Equitable Globalization: Innovative Solutions for the Industry of Tomorrow"** suitably reflects the collective aspiration of our times, as we navigate the complexities of a rapidly evolving global landscape.

The industry of tomorrow requires, today, heavy investments in innovative, sustainable, and inclusive technologies to propel our economies forward.

In this regard, Morocco welcomes the UNIDO's efforts for the elaboration of an African Strategy that will provide a unified framework that guides its interventions, ensures a coordinated and scaled-up approach to inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Africa in order to achieve the sustainable development goals.



## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Kingdom of Morocco, under the Enlightened leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, is deeply committed to being a part of this transformative journey as well as to being a forerunner in driving innovation and sustainable development. This commitment is rooted in a clear vision embodied in our new development model that recognizes the need for an equitable, resilient, and sustainable industrial growth.

Indeed, our New Development Model stands as a beacon of adaptability and resilience, aiming to tackle socioeconomic shifts and challenges head-on. It represents our journey for economic diversification, human capital development, social inclusion, and regional development.

It is worth highlighting that in the face of global supply chain disruptions, Morocco has energized its youth and entrepreneurs through supportive programs, urging them to forge innovative industrial solutions that enhance the 'Made in Morocco' and the 'Made in Africa' reputation.

Similarly, Morocco has taken significant steps to drive innovation with the establishment of the "IP Marketplace", a platform showing Morocco's commitment to fostering innovation ecosystems where companies, entrepreneurs and R&D institutions can collaborate and contribute to move from "Made in Morocco" products to "Invented in Morocco" solutions.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

UNIDO's projects in Morocco are comprehensive and fully aligned with our national objectives. The Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) encompass the development of industrial zones, agri-business, industry 4.0, circular economy and decarbonization.

The visit of the UNIDO Director-General last year to my country and the signing of joint declarations reflect Morocco and UNIDO mutual dedication to industrial innovation and sustainability. It gave a new momentum to our strong partnership through the elaboration of an industrial decarbonization road-map.



I want to seize this occasion to invite the member states to support the implementation of our road map.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In the face of severe drought, supply shocks and successive crisis, Morocco has demonstrated its exceptional resilience and its capacity to be a model of poly-solutions for these poly-crises.

Let us share with you some figures:

- 1<sup>st</sup> manufacturer of cars in Africa
- One of the most competitive countries worldwide in renewable energies
- Morocco tripled its GDP in less than 20 years and ranked 1st among 141 countries in terms of inflation rate stability
- A remarkable export performance of the industrial sectors reaching 37 billion euros in 2022 and representing 87% of the value of our exports.

Additionally, Morocco is committed to continue to support UNIDO's mandate, programmes and initiatives aiming to accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Further to this commitment and following the recommendations of the "Africa Industrialization Index 2022", the Kingdom of Morocco proposes to host the African Industrialization Observatory, in order to share its experience in industrial statistics with other countries.

We invite our international partners to endorse us in the African Industrialization Observatory Initiative, to create a ripple effect of knowledge and growth across the continent deploying a new generation of South-South cooperation.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Engaging in conversation on fair globalization and sustainable industrial advancement, it is essential to recognize significant contributions in these areas. In this context, Morocco is fully supporting Saudi Arabia's offer to host the 21<sup>st</sup> UNIDO General Conference in Riyadh in 2025.



Selecting Riyadh as the venue reflects Saudi Arabia's Vision to shift towards a diversified and technologically advanced economy, as outlined in its Vision 2030. This move is a fair recognition of the country's potential to contribute significantly to addressing global challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

We stand ready to share our practices and learn from others. Let us unite our efforts to not only reach but exceed the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG9. Together, we can make equitable globalization a reality for our industries and our people.

I extend my gratitude for your attention and for the privilege to share Morocco's vision and ongoing commitments.

Thank You.