



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**STATEMENT
BY HONORABLE LUCIA IIPUMBU**

MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH SESSION OF GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF UNIDO**

DATE: 27 NOVEMBER TO 1 DECEMBER 2023

(Check against delivery)

Madam President,

1. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, I would like to congratulate you Your Excellency Madam Debora Lepre, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Italy on your election as the President of the 20th Session of the General Conference of UNIDO. We also congratulate other members of the Bureau. Madam President, let me assure you of the Namibian delegation's full support during the session. In the same vein, I would like to thank the outgoing President of the 19th Session, Amb. Mohamed Mezghani, the former Permanent Representative of Tunisia for the exemplary work during his tenure. My delegation extends its appreciation to the secretariat for the preparations for this Session.
2. Namibia associates itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and African Group respectively.

Madam President,

3. Namibia welcomes, with appreciation, the Annual Report of the Director General for 2022. We note the 17 % increase in the implementation of technical cooperation programmes. We further welcome the commitment of the Director General to increase the implementation rate of the technical cooperation programmes to 25% for the 2024 - 2025 biennium. Namibia further encourages the Organization to build on the achievements and progress made to firmly anchor Member States, particularly developing countries, on the path towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
4. Namibia commends UNIDO's collaboration with other UN agencies, regional bodies, and other stakeholders in advocating for more industrial developmental initiatives and funding for implementation of technical cooperation projects to ensure the attainment of sustainable development goals through industrialization for developing countries.

Madam President,

5. Namibia supports the Director General's organizational reforms and calls on UNIDO to continue improving its human resources capability to ensure the Organization functions efficiently and effectively towards the full implementation of its mandate. Namibia applauds UNIDO's continuous support and important role in the implementation of projects such as:
 - The current Montreal Protocol on the reduction of harmful gases to our environment, which is coordinated by UNIDO.
 - The ongoing project on the Biomass Industrial Park facility (for charcoal production of invader bush encroachment) which is funded by the Finnish Government.
 - The Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Programme (IUMP) which UNIDO introduced to Namibia in 2012 and was adopted by the SADC configuration as a mandated programme for all member states under the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063.

Madam President,

6. Industrialization remains a pivotal objective of the Government of Namibia in the context of sustainable development and job creation to combat socio-economic challenges. Namibia recognizes UNIDO's continued effort on gender equality and the empowerment of Women in its initiatives, projects and programmes, aimed at ensuring that women and the youth can equally lead, participate and benefit from the Inclusive Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) initiative. We welcome UNIDO Gender Strategy which provides guidance and practical recommendations to facilitate the integration of gender in the ISID initiatives.
7. Namibia continues to bear the brunt of climate change as we experience widespread and devastating impacts including land degradation and severe drought. The effect of climate change also threatens our marine resources. These adversely impact the livelihood and wellbeing of our citizens, the economy, infrastructure, the environment, as well as the development priorities of our country.

Madam President,

8. Namibia is poised to become a renewable energy hub of Africa, considering the country's green hydrogen efforts. Namibia welcomes UNIDO's collaboration with Hydrogen Europe and the development of the Global Partnership for Hydrogen application and the skill map for conducting a skills gap assessment in middle - income countries. In this connection, my delegation is grateful for the selection of Namibia amongst the first countries for this exercise.
9. My delegation further recognizes the Policy function toolkit to be developed by the International Renewable Energy Agency and German Institute of Development and Sustainability to help policy makers in designing a green Hydrogen strategy which focuses on both the production and the domestic offtake of green hydrogen. UNIDO's human and capital assistance will be essential in the transition to a green economy.

Madam President,

10. Namibia remains among the most unequal societies in the world, attesting to the deeply embedded structural nature of our problem. The status quo is not sustainable, and Namibia is taking steps to build a more inclusive society. Namibia appreciates UNIDO's strategic work plan for partnering with middle-income countries for inclusive and sustainable development as well as through this strategic partnership Framework.
11. Namibia will, therefore, welcome UNIDO's support towards the formulation and implementation of our national policy on the informal economy, startups and entrepreneurship to further embellish these ideals in overall enterprise development strategy and roadmap.

12. Namibia's classification as an upper middle-income country, hinders access to most of the available funding opportunities and appreciate UNIDO's workplan for partnering with middle-income countries, which could change the status quo.

Madam President,

13. In conclusion, Namibia reaffirms its commitment to support the work of UNIDO and encourage development partners to continue supporting the organization. Namibia further calls on other Member States to pay their assessed contribution timely and in full to enable UNIDO to carry out its mandate.

With these remarks, I wish you a successful Conference.

Thank you.