



**G-77 and China statement during
the 52nd session of the Industrial Development Board,
25-27 November 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Item 7 - Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III)

Thank you, Madam 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 PBC.40/11 which highlights the progress made in the implementation of IDDA III.
2. The Group encourages the Director General to continue engaging with Member States with the view to elaborate Action Plan for the implementation of the UNIDO Africa Strategy 2023-2025 and to allocate necessary funding to this end.
3. The Group welcomes UNIDO's commitment to enhancing the technological and industrial capabilities of African countries in harnessing the 4th industrial revolution, focusing on digital transformation, innovation, and artificial intelligence.
4. The Group further appreciates UNIDO's essential support in meaningfully enhancing technology transfer, knowledge dissemination, and skills development. This includes a strong emphasis on education and training programs tailored for the needs and priorities of African women and youth, utilizing UNIDO's expertise to help create a more inclusive and technologically advanced industrial environment.

Madam President,

5. The Group welcomes the adoption of the 10th Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in November 2023 and supports UNIDO in consulting with Member States to develop the implementation plan to expedite the operational strategy for LDCs 2022-2031 in synergy with the UNIDO Strategy for Africa 2023-2025 and other relevant frameworks to foster global solidarity and cooperation.
6. The Group acknowledges the pivotal role of UNIDO's Strategy for Post-conflict/-crisis Situations in post-conflict recovery, including early recovery, reconstruction, and transition to development programmes, aiming to strengthen foundations for long-lasting peace and prosperity through inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
7. The Group stresses the importance of enhancing the implementation of the 2021–2025 workplan and developing a new work plan in consultation with Member States and other relevant UN development system members and partners within their respective

mandates. Including through creating partnerships for effective responses and tailored integrated service packages for each Member State's needs and priorities.

8. The Group notes that in 2023, UNIDO implemented over 271 projects in Africa, with a total funding of \$55.7 million, representing a decrease compared to the \$63.3 million allocated in 2022, excluding interregional and global portfolios. These projects were carried out under the framework of the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CP).

9. The Group urges UNIDO to align its efforts with the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) to enhance economic development in Africa. This includes promoting systemic resilience through localized manufacturing, enhancing energy efficiency with sustainable alternatives, and advancing green technologies. The Group also emphasizes the importance of harmonizing standards and strengthening national human capacities to address challenges effectively, supporting regional economic integration and sustainable development.

10. The Group takes note of the independent strategic evaluation for the IDDA III 2016-2025 undertaken by the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight and calls upon UNIDO to implement the recommendations stipulated therein to address the challenges that faced IDDA III implementation, including a lack of effective coordination, weak knowledge management and limited funding. The Group further requests UNIDO to work in tandem with the African Union Commission and other relevant African stakeholders on developing IDDA IV.

11. Considering the imminent end of the designated term for IDDA III, the Group emphasizes the critical need for the complete execution of the IDDA III Joint Roadmap and to ensure the full recruitment of the Secretariat of IDDA III. The Group is confident that the Secretariat of IDDA III will take necessary measures towards an enhanced coordinated role in the implementation of this roadmap.

12. The Group urges UNIDO to maintain its cooperation with Member States, other United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, strategic development partners and development finance institutions to facilitate the achievement of the IDDA III objectives. Sustaining collaborative efforts between UNIDO and the African Union are essential for enhancing technical skills and policy expertise, which are necessary for the development and implementation of regional industrial strategies.

13. The Group welcomes the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in September, 2024 witnessed by UNIDO, and the outcome documents, the Beijing Declaration and the Action Plan. The Group supports UNIDO's efforts in promoting the establishment of the demonstration center for China-Africa (Ethiopia)-UN (UNIDO) cooperation, and encourages UNIDO to make full use of the center to help create a more inclusive and technologically advanced industrial environment, and advance the modernization in Africa.

Thank you, Madam President.