

AGENDA ITEM 13: UNIDO Independent Oversight Advisory Committee

The African Group associates itself with the statement of the Group of G77 and China on **UNIDO Independent Oversight Advisory Committee**.

Madam President,

1. The African Group takes note of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee in strengthening accountability and commends the Committee's efforts in the recent report, which provides a picture of the progress and challenges facing UNIDO, particularly in areas critical to sustainable development and effective governance.
2. The Group note with particular interest the Committee's focus on the ongoing reform and restructuring within UNIDO. The African Group believes that a streamlined and efficient organizational structure is essential for aligning UNIDO's mission with the needs of its Member States. We support the Committee's call for a strategic approach to restructuring, one that includes clear timelines and measurable outcomes, enabling UNIDO to maximize its impact in supporting sustainable industrial development in Africa.
3. The report's emphasis on enterprise risk management (ERM) resonates with the African Group's priorities. Given the heightened risks posed by global economic uncertainties, it is vital for UNIDO to strengthen its risk management functions and proactively address potential challenges. We concur with the Committee's recommendation to implement an updated risk register and call for immediate measures to ensure ERM functions are fully active and effective within UNIDO.
4. Furthermore, we commend the Committee's attention to results-based budgeting (RBB) and full cost recovery (FCR). The African Group strongly supports initiatives that link budget allocations to specific, measurable outcomes, as these mechanisms will enhance accountability and ensure resources are utilized efficiently. The focus on FCR is also essential, as it will provide a clearer understanding of costs associated with UNIDO's activities, thereby supporting more informed decision-making.
5. We also request periodic progress reports to ensure the implementation of the recommendations introduced by the independent Oversight Advisory Committee, as well as the External Auditor and the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight.
6. Finally, we encourage the Committee to continue its inclusive approach by engaging with a diverse range of stakeholders across Member States. The African Group looks forward to further updates and guidance from the Committee, which are instrumental in aligning UNIDO's operations with Member States' evolving needs and priorities, especially in the African context.

I thank you Madam President,