



## **SOUTH AFRICA'S STATEMENT ON THE REPORT ON THE THIRD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE**

**Chair,**

**South Africa aligns with the statements of the G77 and China and the Africa Group.**

South Africa notes the progress made on the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA3) 2016-2025). We commend UNIDO for its collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) in achieving the goals of this initiative, which is critical for Africa's comprehensive development and economic transformation.

We encourage UNIDO and our development partners to align their strategies with the objectives of the IDDA III and those of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to accelerate the continent's industrialisation drive and intra-African Trade.

**Chair,**

Economic diversification, environmental sustainability, a diverse mix of renewable energy, skills development, digital transformation, including technology transfer, investment promotion, and the harmonization of standards are essential pillars in advancing Africa's aspirations for regional integration and inclusive, sustainable industrial development. Complementing these priorities will be pivotal for Africa's development.

**Chair,**

As we near the conclusion of IDDA III, it is essential to assess both the achievements and challenges, as enumerated by DDG Haidara to further strengthen this impactful program. South Africa fully supports the 4<sup>th</sup> phase of the IDDA, aligning with Africa's vision of an inclusive, sustainable, and self-sufficient economic future. This includes addressing structural challenges and unlocking the transformative power of industrialization.

This also includes mobilization of resources and we encourage the Director General to continue with his active engagements with other important multilateral structures, UN agencies and donors

to enhance multi-agency coordination and unlock vital funding to build technical competence, enhance productivity and expand opportunities for a wider scale of industrial development on the African continent and fulfill UNIDO's mandate.

We also call on the Director General to increase the Special Resources Funds for Africa (SRA), which has dwindled to only one million in recent years, to fully support Africa's industrialization journey, boost economic competitiveness and create sustainable jobs. We call upon the DG to ensure that the Special Resources fund forms an integral component of UNIDO's engagement with Africa

**Chair, to conclude**, South Africa expresses its sincere appreciation to DDG Fatou Haidara, Mr Victor Djembe and the African Bureau for their diligent efforts and updates on the progress of IDDA 3 and the Africa Strategy.

We join others in calling for the Secretariat to be fully capacitated and resourced to effectively perform their tasks.

This includes stronger African representation within UNIDO in key leadership and decision-making positions through targeted recruitment drives to ensure that IDDA initiative and Africa Strategy achieves its ambitious goals.

Thank you.

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