

Statement by H.E. Debora Lepre, Permanent Representative of Italy, under agenda item 7 -‘Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa’

Madame President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Italy fully **aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union** on this Agenda item. I wish to add some comments in my national capacity.

For Italy, Africa is a cornerstone of our foreign policy. Our commitment is reflected in initiatives such as the **Piano Mattei**, which aims to foster mutually beneficial and fair partnerships.

During our **G7 Presidency**, we have been consistently **prioritizing Africa’s development**, championing its economic growth, regional security, and socio-political stability with specific instruments together with IFIs, International Organizations like UNIDO and private stakeholders.

Moreover, the EU has already made very clear our common engagement through specific joint projects, Team Europe initiatives and Global Gateway.

Furthermore, we are committed to global programs such as the **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty**, launched under the **Brazilian Presidency of the G20** in Rio de Janeiro. In this context, we recall the **Apulia Food Systems Initiative announced by G7 Leaders’ Summit** in June 2024. Synergies between different initiatives are of the essence to cope with global challenges such as, for example food security.

I have already mentioned in my yesterday’s statement the launching of the **Group of Friends of Food Security**, which Italy is co-chairing, as a valid mean to foster the discussion towards food security, agro-industrial development, food systems sustainability, climate change.

Our partnership with UNIDO reflects our commitment to support the industrialization of Africa. **Nearly 70% of the Italian resources** channeled through UNIDO is directed to initiatives **across Africa**.

One of our key projects is the **sustainable coffee supply chains initiative**, vital for the economic and social well-being of coffee-producing nations. Italy has proposed creating a **global public-private fund** to support the coffee industry. Some of the most important **Italian Companies of the coffee** sector are active partners in this regional project.

The innovative approach of this initiative has been also highlighted at the **World Without Hunger Conference in Addis Ababa**.

Assessing the IDDA III, we recognize the achievements made, yet we acknowledge that we could achieve more. As stated in the report, IDDA III has made important contributions to inclusive and sustainable industrial development, but its whole potential has not been fully exploited (due to lack of coordination and financial constraints). It's an important challenge to meet and you can count on Italy to be part of it.

Looking ahead to the **Fourth Industrial Development Decade (IDDA IV)**, Italy stands ready to **collaborate with UNIDO and all partners to contribute in shaping the strategy**.

Italy remains dedicated to supporting this process, working with UNIDO and global partners to ensure a **resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future for the African continent**.

Thank you, President.