

**52nd Session of Industrial Development Board of UNIDO**  
**India statement on Agenda Item No 7: Third Industrial Development**  
**Decade for Africa (IDDA III)**  
**[To be delivered by Rakesh Kumar, Deputy Director General,**  
**Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade]**

Thank you, Chair,

1. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the Group of 77 and China under this agenda item and would like to add the following points from our national perspective.
  
2. The developmental journey of India and Africa is inspired by the historical and civilizational linkages. Our engagement in Africa includes building local capacity and creating local opportunities; keeping our markets open; sharing India's experience with the digital revolution; improving delivery of public services; extending education and spreading digital literacy; improving agriculture; addressing the challenges of climate change; and working with African nations to keep the oceans open and free for the benefit of all nations among others.
  
3. India has completed 206 projects in 43 African countries and 65 projects are being implemented under Indian concessional loans with a total outlay of over US\$ 12.37 billion. These projects cover drinking water and irrigation schemes, power plants and transmission lines, cement, sugar and textile plants, technology parks and railway infrastructure.

4. India's Technical and Economic Cooperation has steadily grown over the decades in line with growth in India's own capabilities and the requirements of the countries in Africa. Almost 40,000 Africans have been trained in India under ITEC in the last 10 years.
  
5. It is also a matter of pride for us that over 23,000 African students live and study in India. We have also established Indian educational institutions in Africa such as the Indian Institute of Technology in Zanzibar (Tanzania), the National Forensic Science University in Uganda, the Entrepreneurship Development Centres in Rwanda, and the various Centres of Information technology in several countries of Africa.
  
6. In recent years, the partnership with Africa has also expanded to areas like climate change, digitalization, and Industry 4.0. India has extended a concessional line of credit of 2 billion US \$ for developing off-grid solar energy projects in Africa. India has signed MoUs on sharing 'India Stack' with four countries including with Sierra Leone in Africa. 'India Stack' is a set of digital infrastructure protocols enabling delivery of public services to citizens catalysing rapid transformation and social inclusion.

Chair,

7. Like India, Africa too has one of the youngest populations on the planet. We understand that this presents opportunities as well as challenges of development.

8. India is supportive of a greater role for Africa in the United Nations and other multilateral fora. During our G-20 Presidency India took the decision to keep the global south at the centre of global discourse. We were successful in inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20.

9. We have taken note of the activities presented in the Director General's progress report on implementation of IDDA III. We would be happy to partner with UNIDO and share India's experience of developing industry specific solutions be it digitalization or development of pharma or solar industries or advancement of agriculture related industries in Africa.

I thank you, Mr Chair.

\*\*\*