



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

Chair,

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 the IDDA III 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.

Economic diversification, environmental sustainability, the adoption of a diverse mix of renewable energy, skills development, digital transformation, investment promotion, and the harmonization of standards are essential pillars in advancing Africa's aspirations for regional integration and inclusive, sustainable industrial development. These areas not only support economic resilience but also foster greater competitiveness across African industries, enhance job creation, and ensure that growth aligns with the continent's goals. Complementing these priorities will be pivotal for Africa's development.

Chair,

We have also noted that despite Africa benefitting from over 50 % of TC projects from UNIDO, this comprises only 36% of the budget, which leaves room for further improvement and mobilization of resources. In this regard, 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 inclusive and sustainable industrial development on the African continent and fulfill UNIDO's mandate.

Chair,

As we near the conclusion of the IDDA III initiative for 2016-2025, it is essential to assess both the achievements and challenges encountered to further strengthen this impactful program. South Africa fully supports the next phase of the IDDA, aligning with Africa's vision of an inclusive, sustainable, and self-sufficient economic future by addressing structural challenges and unlocking the transformative power of industrialization.

We 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 SRA forms an integral component of UNIDO's engagement with Africa

Chair, to conclude, South Africa expresses its sincere appreciation to Ms Fatou Haidara, Mr Victor Djembe and the African Bureau for their diligent efforts and continuously updating African countries on the progress of IDDA 3 and the Africa Strategy. It is imperative that the Africa Bureau is fully capacitated and resourced to effectively perform their tasks. In this regard, South Africa joins the Africa Group in calling for stronger African representation within UNIDO, We request the DG to pprioritise African candidates in key leadership and decision-making positions through targeted recruitment drives.

Thank you.

Word count 469