



**NATIONAL STATEMENT**

**BY**

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OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**17<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNIDO**

**GENERAL DEBATE**

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**Check against delivery**

**Madam President,**

I would like to start by aligning my delegation's statement with those delivered by Angola and Iran on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China, respectively.

On the occasion of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference, allow me, on behalf of the people and the Government South African to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. We also want to express our sincere appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent preparations of this Conference.

My delegation would like to congratulate Mr LI Yong on his appointment as the Director-General of UNIDO. Given the key role he has played in spearheading the practical implementation of the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) and the momentum in terms of policy formulation and resource mobilization to facilitate implementation, my delegation has no doubt that Mr LI Yong's second tenure as Director-General of UNIDO will continue to steer this Organization in the right direction.

**Madam President,**

South Africa is grateful to UNIDO for the creative initiatives, particularly the Programme for Country Partnership (PCPs) which were piloted on our continent with Ethiopia and Senegal being the recipient countries. We also welcome the extension of the PCP to Peru. This truly enhances inclusive and sustainable industrial development towards the attainment of goal 9 on building resilient infrastructure and fostering innovation in pursuance of the Lima Declaration and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The South African National Development Plan domesticates the Lima Declaration and complements UNIDO's efforts to push for sustainable industrial development through the adoption of the Industrial Policy Action Plan. A number of major programmes have been implemented such as the leveraging of public procurement to stimulate domestic manufacturing and creation of jobs, the revitalization of industrial parks and new cluster initiatives in the pharmaceutical, composites and medical devices sectors among others, and a citrus industry project with a focus on inclusivity and participation particularly towards empowerment. This is in keeping with aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063 on "the Africa we want" which calls for "prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development". It is for this reason that my delegation welcomes the adoption of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

We welcome UNIDO's continued assistance in strengthening our domestic efforts towards the realization of industrial development. This effort complements our national programme called Operation Phakisa, a fast results delivery programme aimed at implementing the National Development Plan whose ultimate aim is to boost economic growth and create employment. This programme is implemented in strategic sectors of the economy such as agriculture, oceans economy, and energy, among others. For instance, in the area of agriculture, one of the projects relates to the development of Agro-processing industrial parks in the North West Province in South Africa, which is at the initial stage. This would undoubtedly enhance value addition in the agriculture value chain. In addition, we welcome

the launch in February 2017 of the renewable energy project funded by the Global Environment Facility. In this regard, we thank UNIDO for the assistance in supporting South Africa's efforts to realize Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development.

**Madam President,**

It is my delegations' considered view that the convening of the High Level Event on the Third Industrialization Decade for Africa in New York in September 2017 came at an opportune time in bringing together African Heads of State and Government as well as other high level dignitaries and Africa's development partners to pave way for the implementation of this decade through a broad based, country owned process that leverages on financial and non-financial resources to complement the regional integration process.

South Africa is grateful to Africa's development partners and their constructive engagement through the UNIDO Donors Conference and other fora in supporting the African continent to industrialize with a view to achieving a socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable development thus laying the ground for decent employment, and access to high-quality, safe and affordable manufactured goods that are made within the continent.

**Madam President,**

The "Industrialize Africa strategy (2016 -2025)" developed by the African Development Bank in consultations with UNIDO and other stakeholders is warmly welcomed. My delegation is optimistic that this strategy would go long way in assisting African countries develop the industrial sector and policy framework, enhance trade and integrate Africa into the regional and international value chains, and boost competitiveness. We are also encouraged by the multi-stakeholder inclusion under the leadership of the Bank to raise funding to the tune of 56 billion US\$D over the next decade to finance Africa's industrialization. While the GDP growth in the continent has been promising, the lack of industrialization has hindered development.

Given the strategic importance and role played by UNIDO in the developing world and Africa in particular, it is critical for the organization's mandate to be supported. Therefore, assured resources are needed. In this regard, the withdrawal from UNIDO of some member states has regrettably impacted negatively on the work and funding of the organization. It is therefore important that member states remain part of the UNIDO family.

In line with the Lima Declaration, South Africa commends the financial support by some member states and donors in helping UNIDO to play its meaningful role towards facilitating the industrialization of the African continent and Least Development Countries, including countries in transition. We applaud the leadership of DG LI Yong in guiding this august organization.

I would like to conclude Madam President, by wishing this Conference success.

I thank you.

