

AGENDA ITEM 3: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THE YEAR 2020, TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E NADA KRUGER, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP

Madam President,

1. The Africa Group takes note of the report of the Director General for the year 2020 as contained in document IDB. 49/2. The report encapsulates important areas for economic growth, industrial development, through the Programme for Country Partnerships and the Country Programme which are important areas in the quest for Africa's industrial development.
2. The Group commends the Director-General, Li Yong and his leadership in steering the Organization's mandate, particularly in undertaking activities focused on Agenda 2030 and Goal 9 of the SDGs; and welcomes UNIDO's advocacy for structural transformation and sustainable industrialization of the African countries mainly by being the leading agency for the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III).
3. The Group notes UNIDO's involvement and efforts towards the implementation of the IDDAIII, which is the international framework to advance sustainable industrialization on the African continent by 2025. In this regard, the Group notes the progress made in the implementation of the eight Programmes for Country Partnerships in Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal and Zambia; as well as the eight Country Programmes in Angola, Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. We also call for the extension of the PCPs and CPs to other African countries and urge UNIDO to support countries in further aligning industrial development efforts with their country master plans.

Madam President,

4. UNIDO's continued work with IDDA III focal points from 28 institutions, including the AUC, regional economic communities, United Nations organizations, development finance institutions, and business sector partners is welcomed. Furthermore, we call upon UNIDO to develop strategies that align the deliverables of IDDA III with those of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Agenda 2063 of Industrialising Africa, which has immense opportunities that target the acceleration of industrial transformation of Africa's economies and ensure sustainable and inclusive industrial development. The Group further calls upon more initiatives for the success of this decade and to enhance industrial and economic development, job and wealth creation in Africa.
5. In considering the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group applauds UNIDO for continuing its mandated activities, particularly the technical cooperation implementation in 2020 which reached a figure of US\$177.7 million, which is equivalent to 95 per cent of the average delivery in the preceding five-year period.
6. We are cognizant that despite progress achieved in some areas of development on the continent, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the industrialisation process, inflicting massive damage on African economies. In this regard, we call upon UNIDO to play a critical role in the acceleration of inclusive and sustainable industrial development to help address the immediate socio-economic impact of the pandemic and in building back stronger and more resilient economies. This assistance can include further efforts to develop harmonisation standards across the continent to boost intra-African trading as well as resuscitate local manufacturing industries on continent.

Madam President,

7. In view of the current financial situation of the Organization, the Group requests the Director General to proactively address UNIDO's situation in respect to the cost-sharing of the reform in order to ensure that the ultimate cost on UNIDO does not adversely hamper technical cooperation, field network and its operations and staff in the Headquarters and field offices and upgrade them.

Madam President,

8. The Group looks forward to the first African Union Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification in collaboration with UNIDO, UNECA, and the AfroChampions Initiative which is set to take place in November 2021 in Niger. This summit will provide a platform to discuss concrete actions to boost Africa's industrial development.

I thank you
