

Statement on behalf of the Japanese Delegation
at the 49th Session of the Industrial Development Board (12-15 July 2021)

For interpretation

[Agenda Item 10: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa]

Mme President,

Japan takes note of the report by the Director General IDB.49/13 on the Annual update on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III).

We commend UNIDO's active promotion of the IDDA III and reaffirm our support to UNIDO's leading role in its implementation. UNIDO is a longstanding partner in Japan's commitment towards the industrial development of Africa. Japan and UNIDO have fostered a tripartite cooperation with African countries in various areas of work.

The second half of the IDDA III, having already started, must be filled with substantial action to produce tangible outcomes. In this regard, we continue our support in various areas such as industrial skills development, renewable energy and marine plastic litter issues. Additionally, Japan's COVID-19 response projects are in progress to support those who are struggling to overcome the Human Security Crisis caused by the pandemic.

Furthermore, in order to accelerate our steps towards the SDGs and IDDA III, Japan decided to make a new contribution to 3 projects with a total amount of 10.9 million USD in the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Republic of Zambia. Japan expects that the impacts of these projects are maximized by effectively positioning them in the IDDA III Joint Roadmap as well.

Two weeks ago, we co-organized with UNIDO a Webinar Series focusing on the areas of intensified UNIDO-Japan cooperation, and one of the webinars focused especially on the industrial skills development in Africa. The various stakeholders shared their views on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and partnership between sectors to narrow the skills gap. We hope that UNIDO leverages its technical cooperation and its partnering and convening power to create tangible results and increase our collective wisdom for building back better.

Multilateralism and the vitality of the private sector are more important than ever to assist African countries to overcome the crisis and to build back better. We hope that UNIDO plays a pivotal role in this challenge. Japan stands ready to continue working with UNIDO to forge better synergies between IDDA III and the TICAD process, taking aim at the forthcoming TICAD 8 in 2022.

We look forward to fostering our cooperation with UNIDO and Africa entering into the second half of IDDA III.

Thank you. (END)