

**STATEMENT AT THE 49TH SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
BOARD OF UNIDO**

AGENDA ITEM 3

(ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DG FOR 2020)

12 - 15 JULY 2021

H.E. NADA KRUGER

**AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
NAMIBIA**

Mme
~~Mr~~ President

Namibia associates herself with the statements delivered by the Africa Group and Group of 77 and China respectively.

Allow me to congratulate Your Excellency Amb Dominica Krois on your election as the President of the 49th session of the IDB. Please accept assurances of Namibia's full support. Our congratulations also goes to other Members of the Bureau. At the same time we pay tribute to H.E. Ambassador Djumala for his excellent leadership during his term as President.

Mme
~~Mr~~ President

Namibia appreciates the Annual Report 2020, and congratulates the Director General for outlining very comprehensively the activities and important achievements in the sphere of Sustainable Industrial Development during the year under review. Africa needs Industrial Development more than ever. The Covid-19 pandemic left us all in a situation of financial shock as it has multiplied the already existing challenges we continue to face. We therefore agree with the assessment that this crisis reminds us of our shared responsibility, global solidarity and support to multilateral institutions.

Mme
~~Mr~~ President

The work done towards establishing PCPs in Africa since their first introduction in 2014, is noted and commended. We trust that this can be scaled up to include

more African countries in future. We believe there is scope for UNIDO and Member States to work towards reducing the time-frame within which PCPs are reaching their final approval.

Climate change, lack of development in rural areas, access to electricity remain challenges in most of our countries. In this regard we encourage UNIDO to continue with skills transfer and capacity building activities that targets SMEs and MSMEs, especially those involving women and youth.

~~MMP~~ President

This brings me to UNIDO's vision for equal benefit of men and women from ISID, a norm that is strongly supported by Namibia. Covid-19 has disproportionately affected women in the work environment, and will result in women being even more excluded from the industrialization agenda. We believe that the economic empowerment of women can significantly contribute to economic integration and industrialization and regional and international trade.

~~MMS~~ Mr President

In conclusion, allow me to express our appreciation to outgoing Director General Li Yong for his dedicated and strong leadership during his term in office. We wish him well in all future endeavours.

I thank you.