

**AGENDA ITEM 10: THIRD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR
AFRICA (IDDA III), TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E
H.E. Mr. Robinson GITHAU , PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA, ON
BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**

Thank you Madam President,

1. The Africa Group expresses its appreciation for the report prepared on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The Group has noted the numerous activities undertaken by UNIDO to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development on the African continent.
2. These activities have come at a critical juncture as Africa's progress has suffered a setback following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, the technical assistance conducted through the country partnership programmes in several African countries is welcomed. Tanzania's inclusion in the PCP network in October 2020 and Kenya's launch of the PCP self-starter in January 2021, are equally acclaimed and we look forward to further expansion of the network.
3. The Africa Group has noted that UNIDO has collaborated with several organisations such as the AUC, UNECA, FAO and African Development Bank, amongst others, to implement various projects on the continent geared towards building resilience, driving innovation, and promoting job creation. This will no doubt build capacity and aid economic recovery in the post-COVID era. We were particularly impressed with the joint initiatives undertaken to increase self-employment opportunities in the agricultural sector and encourage further development of entrepreneurs, with specific reference to women and youth.

Madam President,

4. It is a known fact that industrialisation and development go hand in hand. Africa's developmental potential will only be truly realized through strong and sustainable partnerships. We remain confident that UNIDO can play an integral role in disseminating

timely knowledge, expertise, technical tools and capacity building in sectors that can assist Africa achieve the goals set out in Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

5. Going forward, we would like to encourage UNIDO to further increase its technical cooperation in areas such as digitization and local manufacturing to enable Africa to meet the demands and opportunities offered by the 4th Industrial Revolution as well as facilitate sustainable job creation and enhancement of supply chains to meet both domestic and regional demand.
6. The Africa Group hopes that UNIDO's value addition in the aforementioned sectors can also complement country strategies to implement the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) and ensure that Africa achieves its developmental objectives.
7. I thank you.
