

**19TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO), 29TH
NOVEMBER – 3RD DECEMBER 2021, VIENNA AUSTRIA**

STATEMENT BY GHANA

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ghana delegation, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Mohamed Mezghani, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia, on his election as the President of the 19th Session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The Ghana delegation is confident in the capabilities of the President and members of his Bureau to steer the affairs of this session of the General Conference to a successful conclusion.

The Ghana delegation also wishes to convey sincere appreciation to the President of the 18th Session of the General Conference, His Excellency Ing. Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry of the United Arab Emirates, and members of his bureau for their commitment and dedication to the work of the previous session.

In addition, the delegation would like to thank the Director General and staff of the Secretariat for the efficient organization of this General Conference.

The Ghana delegation associates itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the African Group and wishes to make the following statement in Ghana's national capacity.

Mr. President

The 19th Session of the General Conference marks a crucial moment in the history of UNIDO. The Organization is commemorating its 55th Anniversary, and it will also appoint its next Director General who will manage the implementation of programmes of the Organization aimed at supporting Member States to recover from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and build robust, inclusive, and resilient economies going forward.

Over the past fifty-five years, UNIDO has provided support to Member States towards building Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. It has also developed the capacity and expertise in the various facets of sustainable development to support Member States to “build back better” following the COVID-19 crisis. Nonetheless, coordinating the web of activities of the Organization in collaboration with Member States to deliver Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, particularly for developing countries has been a very slow process.

The theme for this year’s General Conference: “Building a Better Future” is, therefore, not just appropriate but a clarion call for the expansion of cooperation between UNIDO and Member States towards Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development for a resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Ghana acknowledges the important role played by UNIDO during the COVID-19 crisis and the greater role it must play in support of the Member States to “build back better”.

Anchoring African on the path of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, which is the vision of the Third Industrial Decade for Africa (IDDA III), will remain unachievable without the transformation of the industrial capacities of African countries into locations of competitive industrial production. The IDDA III is already in its midstream and with Africa’s renewed determination and commitment to industrialization, the existing cooperation and partnership between UNIDO and African countries need to be expanded to ensure practical and implementable synergies to further industrialization in Africa.

Mr. President

While the pandemic has created severe economic challenges for Ghana, the Country equally recognizes the pandemic as an opportunity to remodel and build a Wealthy, Inclusive, Sustainable, Empowered, and Resilient Ghana (a W.I.S.E.R Ghana); a country that is industrialized and established as a Regional Hub for goods and services. In this regard, the GhanaCARES “Obatanpa” Programme serves as the blueprint for the Country’s post Covid-19 economic recovery and structural economic transformation. Through the GhanaCARES “Obatanpa” Programme, the Country seeks to build stronger institutions to deliver efficient services, provide the necessary infrastructure to support

business and improve access to long term finance, build skills to deepen the quality and impact of services and maintain financial sustainability.

The programme also falls within the framework of the Industrial Policy of Ghana whose key developmental objectives are to expand productive employment and technological capacity in the manufacturing sector as well as promote agro-based industrial development and spatial distribution of industries to achieve reduction in poverty and income inequalities.

Now more than ever, Ghana will seek to expand its financial partnerships, investment partnerships and knowledge centres of excellence. Ghana will build on its successes in agriculture achieved through policies such as “planting for food and job” and “one village one dam”, by scaling up technologies to reach millions of farmers. Ghana will add value to what it produces and provide creative and high-tech opportunities for massive youth engagement in agriculture and agribusiness.

Mr. President

In all this endeavour, Ghana will seek UNIDO’s support in terms of resources, capacity, and expertise in fostering Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, as Ghana remains committed to the ideals of the Organization.

I thank you Mr. President.