

**STATEMENT OF THE AFRICA GROUP DURING THE 19<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE, 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER TO 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER  
2021, DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR FAOUZIA MEBARKI,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA**

**Mr. President,**

1. On behalf of the Africa Group, I would like to congratulate you, your Excellency **Amb. Mohamed MEZGHANI**, Permanent Representative of Tunisia, on your election as President of this 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference as the organization celebrates its 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Group would like to assure you of its full support. Further appreciation is extended to the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements in preparing for this session.
2. The Group also takes this opportunity to express its appreciation for the efforts of the outgoing President of the 18<sup>th</sup> General Conference, H.E Eng. Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry of the United Arab Emirates, as well as his bureau.
3. The Group aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Mr. President**

4. The Africa Group expresses its appreciation to the Director-General, Mr. Li Yong for his opening address and his report which highlighted key activities undertaken by UNIDO in the last two years. The reports encapsulate important areas for economic growth and industrial development, including in Africa, implemented through the Country Programme and the Programme for Country Partnerships. These programmes are critical to the pursuit of industrial development in Africa. In this regard, the Group welcomes the expansion of the PCP network to Tanzania in October 2020 and Kenya in January 2021, bringing the number of PCP countries to nine. The Group looks forward to further expansion of the network within the continent.
5. Furthermore, the Group wishes to underscore that the success of the CPs and the PCPs, as well as other programmes and projects depend on the mobilization of the required resources. In this regard, the Group appreciates the continued contribution of some Member States and international donors.

**Mr. President,**

6. The Africa Group commends the Director-General for his advocacy for structural transformation and inclusive sustainable industrialization of African countries through the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa.
7. The Group notes the continued implementation of the IDDA III Roadmap and the establishment of the IDDA III Secretariat, which will help fast track

the implementation of IDDA III targets. In this regard, the Group stresses the need for UNIDO to urgently finalize the recruitment process and operationalize the Secretariat at the earliest.

**Mr. President,**

8. The Africa Group notes the report of the Program and Budget Committee at its 37th session chaired by Her Excellency Ms. Fouzia Mebarki of Algeria and expresses its support for the adoption of the proposed budget for the biennium 2022-2023. The Group also takes note of the recommendation of the Informal Working Group's on the issues related to the Program and Budget Committee and looks forward to a fruitful deliberation by the Conference on those matters.
9. Furthermore, the Group is aware of the challenges with regard to UNIDO's funding resources particularly during this time of Covid-19 pandemic, including its negative global economic and financial impact. In this regard, the Group stresses the utmost importance for the members States to pay their financial contributions to the Organisation, in full and on time, including the urgent collection of arrears of the current and former Member States.

**Mr. President,**

10. The Africa Group has taken note of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the outcomes of COP 26 which took place in Glasgow, where ambitious commitments were made in tackling climate change and its devastating impact on the globe. Despite only contributing marginally to Green House Gas emissions, climate change remains the biggest risk for Africa's socio-economic imperatives and threatens the realization of Agenda 2030. In this regard, the African Group calls upon UNIDO to intensify its collaborative efforts to increase support for Africa's adaption and mitigation programmes through the provision of adequate climate-smart resources, environmentally sound technology transfer, technical assistance and capacity building to assist in low carbon industrialization and increase the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency to enable inclusive sustainable and industrial development.

**Mr. President**

11. The Group appreciates UNIDO and its partners for their ongoing efforts to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic through interventions in various UNIDO Member States including through the establishment of the multi-partner trust fund whose aim is to address the public health emergency arising from the pandemic as well as to help countries recover better from it.
12. The Group is encouraged to note from the Director General's report that \$83.3 million dollars has already been mobilised as of September 2021 from the \$2 billion dollars required for the operationalisation of the multi-partner trust Fund. The Africa Group therefore thanks those that

contributed financial resources to Trust Fund and hopes that many more partners will come on board to support the work of UNIDO.

**Mr. President,**

13. The Africa Group notes the progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which continues to guide UNIDO's actions despite delays reported in several aspects of the Agenda. In this context, the group reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the role of UNIDO as a viable instrument for ISID in economic, social and environmental dimensions around the globe and the developing countries in particular.
14. The Group acknowledges the special position of SDG 9 within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by recognizing the role of industry, innovation and infrastructure as a driver of sustainable development and for allowing greater income generation and sustained increases in our living standards.
15. The Group urges UNIDO to pay more attention to SDG 16 as the scourge of physical insecurity grows and spreads within several member States. This has become very necessary as it is apparent that Physical Insecurity has the ability to impede development efforts.

**Mr. President,**

16. In spite of the steady progress recorded in the socio-economic development in Africa, underdevelopment, unemployment, inequality and poverty remain a challenge. Considering that 33 of the 46 Least Developed Countries are in Africa, the Group encourages UNIDO to further enhance its engagement with African countries with a view of tailoring its technical and advisory services to their specific developmental needs so as to boost structural economic transformation. In this regard, the Group is appreciative of the Director General and UNIDO for continuing to give priority to the African development agenda, and further welcomes the outcome of the recently concluded UNIDO's 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries.

**Mr. President,**

17. As I conclude, the African Group notes UNIDO's strategy for post-conflict/crisis situations, which targets to make a positive difference through alleviating risks, threats and vulnerabilities to fragile States and communities. Considering the expected long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Group appreciates UNIDO's adjustment of its strategy for post-conflict/crisis situations and aligning it with its Covid-19 response framework. This will help vulnerable communities prepare, contain, respond and adapt from the effects of both the pandemic and the conflicts.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**