

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HONORABLE LUCIA  
IIPUMBU, MINISTER OF  
INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE AT THE  
19TH SESSION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE  
OF UNIDO TO BE HELD FROM 29  
NOVEMBER TO 3 DECEMBER 2021**

*(Check against delivery)*

Mr. President

Hon. Ministers

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of Namibia, I would like to extend our warm congratulations to you on your election as President of the 19th session of the General Conference of UNIDO, as well as other members of the Bureau. Please be assured of my delegation's support as you steer this conference to its successful conclusion. I also wish to appreciate the excellent work done by the outgoing President and the members of the bureau.

Namibia associates itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China respectively.

Mr. President

The COVID 19 pandemic has shaken and devastated economic activities around the world, and the lasting impacts will continue to be felt in future. Developing countries continue to be severely affected by the pandemic as the crisis has exacerbated already existing inequalities. The crisis further brought a sharp increase in public borrowing as countries struggled to address the health crisis, while faced with vast vaccine shortages and/or inequalities. In this context, we recognize UNIDO's efforts in responding to the crisis in many developing countries, particularly its contribution to the socioeconomic response, economic recovery, and building a more sustainable and resilient future.

Mr. President

Industrialization remains an essential objective of the Government of Namibia in the context of sustainable wealth and job creation. The Government has an elaborate Vision 2030 which clearly articulate Namibia's industrial ambitions and industrialization objectives. To drive the industrialization agenda Namibia adopted the Industrial Development Policy and the Industrial policy implementation and strategic Framework detailing the targets, strategies, and an action plan. Furthermore, different activities and programmes are also instituted to accelerate the industrial development aspirations and to achieve inclusive industrial growth.

Mr. President

Namibia like many other developing countries, struggles with high levels of unemployment particularly youth unemployment, and inequalities, and the existing unprecedented challenges posed by covid 19 pandemic exacerbated these socio-economic challenges. To mitigate and confront those challenges, Namibia launched a "Growth at Home" initiative that is aimed at delivering inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), stimulate economic growth, and promote trade and direct investment. Growth at Home Strategy attracted various partners who are collaborating with the government to advance the ISID agenda that would subsequently enable sustainable employment creation, skills development for a self-reliant and industrialized economy and increase economic participation by previously disadvantaged Namibians.

In this regard, we appreciate and welcome the cooperation with UNIDO in the implementation of the Project titled "Promoting sustainable bush-processing value

chains in Namibia”. The three-legged project aims at reducing invasive bush species, converting invasive species into animal fodder and charcoals, while creating employment through economic value chains. We welcome the introduction of innovative digital technologies to the project, such as satellite and drone supported imagery, to detect invasive acacia bush species with high precision for easy recognition and responsible harvesting. We call on UNIDO to continue working with us and explore different avenues of cooperation to enable us to broaden our industrial capacity, enhance industrial development while confronting the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Mr. President

The implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) as a yearned impetus in pursuit of Africa’s industrialization agenda remains important to Namibia. My delegation emphasizes that the implementation of the IDDA III should be complementary to the existing continental and global development agenda frameworks, particularly the AU Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, but not a parallel effort. In this regard we appreciate the leading role played by UNIDO in the implementation of the IDDA III and welcome the recent validation of the joint Roadmap and the monitoring and evaluation framework by the IDDA III partners, as well as the establishment of the IDDA III Secretariat within UNIDO.

We further welcome UNIDO’s continued support and contribution through the provision of technical assistance to African countries through the implementation of Programme for Country Partnership (PCPs), a drive toward the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 9. Namibia stresses that the element of technology

transfer should not be overlooked in designing PCPs, as technology remains a catalyst in the realization of inclusive sustainable industrial development. It is further our wish that PCPs can be scaled up to include more African countries in future.

Mr. President

Along with the world, Namibia continues to bear the brunt of climate change. We continue to experience widespread and devastating impacts including land degradation, severe drought, and devastating field fires that destroys large tracts of our agricultural land. The effect of climate change also threatens our marine resources. These adversely impacted the livelihood and wellbeing of our citizens, economy, infrastructure, the environment, as well as the development priorities of the country. In this regard, we welcome the recent signing of the Accreditation Framework Agreement between UNIDO and the Green Climate Fund, a move that would allow UNIDO to facilitate Member States access to funds for climate mitigation and adaptation projects, aimed at meeting national commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Mr. President

Namibia as a classified upper middle-income country continues to face serious challenges in all three dimensions of sustainable development, with constraints that prevent us from realizing poverty eradication, inequality, external debt, and environmental vulnerabilities among others. The classification does not consider the skewed income distribution and denies the country access to official development financing and concessional loans needed for implementing national development programmes. We wish to underscore that the graduation system or single indicator

of per capita income does not reflect the true status of countries, as it does not consider the heterogeneous attributes and complex nature of these countries. This flawed approach should be complemented with other indicators for determining practical and comprehensive strategies to address development needs.

In this context, Namibia calls upon UNIDO to scale up efforts to assist middle income countries, including upper middle income, to achieve full scale inclusive and sustainable industrial development, economic growth and development, through accessing available technology, skill transfer and enhancing capacity building. We further encourage UNIDO continue with capacity building activities that targets start-up entrepreneurs, SMEs and MSMEs, especially those involving women and youths.

Mr. President,

Namibia recognizes UNIDO's continued effort on gender mainstreaming, the promotion of Gender Equality and the empowerment of Women in its initiatives, projects and programmes, aimed at ensuring that women can equally lead, participate and benefit from inclusive sustainable industrial development. We welcome the launching of the "UNIDO Guide to Gender Analysis and Gender Mainstreaming the Project Cycle", which provides guidance and practical recommendations to facilitate the integration of gender in the ISID initiatives. We trust that the implementation of this Project Cycle and other initiatives will improve gender mainstreaming in projects and programmes, while being instrumental in bridging the existing gender gap and achieve gender parity at all levels in the organization.

In conclusion Mr. President, Namibia reaffirms its commitment to support the work of UNIDO and encourage developed partners to continue supporting the organization to fully carry out its mandate. I wish you a successful Conference.

I thank you!