



STATEMENT

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY HON. UHURU KENYATTA, C.G.H.
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES**

DURING THE

**THE 19TH SESSION OF THE UNIDO GENERAL
CONFERENCE, 29 NOVEMBER – 3 DECEMBER
2021**

VIENNA, AUSTRIA,

29TH NOVEMBER 2021

(7 minutes)

President of the General Conference,

Excellencies,

UNIDO Director General, Mr. Li Yong,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies Gentlemen!

- 1. Accept Greetings from Kenya to you all.**
- 2. Mr. President, allow me to thank H.E. Li Yong, Director General, UNIDO** for inviting me to this 19th UNIDO General Conference. Kenya and UNIDO remain strong partners in the quest to drive economic development and transformation through industrialization.

3. The Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III), 2016-2025, anchors Africa on a **path of inclusive and sustainable industrial development** that would transform the continent into locations of **competitive industrial production.** We remain committed to the vision of the IDDA III, which is consistent with the African Union's Agenda 2063 that seeks to prioritize economic growth, industrialization, and jobs in the next three decades.

4. For emerging markets such as Kenya, UNIDO's role is crucial in supporting our national development priorities. Indeed, under the **recently signed Programme for Country Partnership with UNIDO**, we seek to accelerate inclusive and sustainable industrial development and promote competitiveness.

Mr. President,

5. Most of the world is still reeling from the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The disruption of global supply chains had a disproportionately large impact on production, businesses and livelihoods in developing countries, which are **heavily dependent on imported essential commodities.**

6. To jump-start our economies requires us to prioritize investments with large revenue generation and job creation potential. We need to be **bold** and **resourceful** and use **lessons learnt** from **this crisis** as an **opportunity** to **rethink** our development strategies to ensure resilient and sustainable recovery.

7. I would like to invite UNIDO to work with us to rethink our **industrial development model** and **approach,** and to **strengthen** the **conditions** that will enhance the competitiveness of our industries.

8. Kenya, and several countries in Africa, has made significant progress in strengthening the key enablers for industries. A major expansion of the infrastructure network has made the movement of goods and services easier and faster. The enabling framework for digital transformation is firmly in place and an enabling business environment makes Kenya an attractive investment destination.

9. We seek to harness this enabling business environment to accelerate industrial development. We further seek to **increase** intra-regional trade, and value-chain supply linkages, through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). In this context, we propose to reorient

our technical cooperation with UNIDO in “THREE AREAS”.

10. The FIRST is to expand the reach and scope of the UNIDO Partnership Programme.

Kenya is working with UNIDO, to strengthen Operation and Maintenance capacities of **Olkaria geothermal power** station using **Internet of Things technologies (digital technology)**. This is an important project, which is facilitating knowledge and technology transfer and broadening the use of digitization. **However**, to meet the challenge of jobs creation, and the drive for the industrial transformation, we need **more and larger** digitization programmes. Currently they are just too few and small.

11. The SECOND is to re-orient the programme towards an industrial model that is relevant to Africa. Structural transformation in Africa points attractive opportunities in new “industries” such as **agribusinesses, digital technologies,** and **green manufacturing** where Africa has a **clear comparative advantage.** We would like to expand cooperation in these “industries” as we harness our **strong footprint in green energy** to expand **green industries,** in line with our **emission reduction commitments.**

12. The THIRD is to expand manufacturing capacity in Africa. The difficulty Africa has experienced in **accessing vaccines** during the pandemic has **underscored** the **urgency** of establishing local manufacturing capacity, not just for vaccines and pharmaceuticals, but also for other essential commodities.

13. Let me conclude *Mr. President*, by sincerely **thanking the outgoing Director General, His Excellency Li Yong**, for his support, partnership, and friendship during his tenure. I congratulate **Dr. Gerd Muller** election as **Director General** and assure him of Kenya's support as he **takes over the leadership of UNIDO.**

I Thank You.

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