



STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE 19TH SESSION OF THE UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE, 29 NOVEMBER – 3 DECEMBER 2021, DELIVERED BY H.E. BETTY MAINA, CABINET SECRETARY FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRADE & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

President of the General Conference,

Hon. Ministers,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. As I am taking the floor for the first time, I wish to congratulate you, His Excellency Amb. Mohamed MEZGHANI, Permanent Representative of Tunisia, as you assume the Chairmanship of this 19th Session of the General Conference. I assure you and the Bureau of my delegations' full support.
2. In the same vein, I take this opportunity to express my delegation's gratitude to the outgoing President of the 18th General Conference, H.E Eng. Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Industry of the United Arab Emirates, as well as his bureau for all their efforts and support during their tenure.

Mr. President,

3. Kenya aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China and adds the following remarks in its national capacity.

Mr. President

4. Kenya's development priority policies are anchored in the country's development Vision 2030, which includes the Big Four Agenda: Food Security, Affordable Housing, **Manufacturing** and Universal Healthcare. The implementation of these four priorities form part of the first phase of measures Kenya Government continues to implement as it targets to transform Kenya into a newly industrializing Middle-income country.
5. The priority on Manufacturing is firmly pitched on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDD AIII) which anchors Africa on a path of inclusive and sustainable industrial



development, which would transform African countries into locations of competitive industrial production.

6. As a country, Kenya remains committed to the vision of IDDA III, which is consistent with the African Union's Agenda 2063 that seeks to prioritize growth, industrialization and job creation. In this regard, **H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta** and **Director General Mr. Li Yong** launched Kenya's Self-Starter Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) in **January 2021**. Kenya opted for this UNIDO's innovative model, to accelerate inclusive and sustainable Industrial development, and also owing to the need to strengthen the key elements of industrial productive capacity, such as infrastructure, innovation and technological transfer, industrial financing, industrial knowledge and skills, and the increase of support from both public and private sector institutions. Further, Kenya and UNIDO signed joint declaration for implementation of the PCP on 27th September 2021.
7. To enhance and promote competitiveness within the PCP model, Kenya will continue to support establishment of Industrial Parks and Special Economic Zones that will provide a competitive platform for industrial development. During the launch of the Self-Starter PCP in January 2021, the Government also launched the implementation of the first anchor project on Integrated Agro-Industrial Park (IAIP) in Nyamira County. This is a confirmation of Government's commitment to putting in place the necessary infrastructure to facilitate investment. We acknowledge with gratitude the support by the Government of the Peoples Republic of China in funding the feasibility study and Master planning of the IAIP. We urge other development partners, as well as private sector investors to engage us and invest in Kenya.

Mr. President,

8. Technical cooperation remains a priority and core activity for UNIDO through which support is channeled to Member States. In this regard, we encourage UNIDO to further increase its technical cooperation in areas such as digitization and local manufacturing to enable countries such as Kenya to meet the demands and tap the 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.



9. Further, we have confidence that UNIDO's value addition in the aforementioned sectors can also complement country strategies to implement the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and ensure that Africa achieves its developmental objectives.

Mr. President,

10. The world suffered a setback following the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought with it a devastating impact that resulted in severe constraints on production, as the unprecedented lockdowns disrupted supply chains in all sectors of the economy.
11. We commend UNIDO for its response to the pandemic, specifically its engagement and support to Member States in developing countries to prepare for, and respond to the challenges emanating from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, assisting countries in the development of contingency plans to mitigate the impact of the pandemic in line with national response plans and priorities is quite commendable.
12. Nevertheless, **Mr. President**, two issues remain a nagging challenge to the developing countries as the world continues to grapple with the virus.

(a) **One** - the heavily affected was the health sector of developing countries, particularly due to the heavy reliance on imported pharmaceutical and other medical supplies produced by companies in developed nations. Our present situation reinforces the urgency in accelerating self-reliance in the manufacture of pharmaceutical and medical commodities. In this regard, **we must find ways to bridge the gap and invest in pharmaceutical companies in developing countries.** Local manufacture of such essential commodities holds much promise to the economies in regard to inclusive and sustainable development. We call on UNIDO to continue its support on strengthening local pharmaceutical Industry in developing countries such as Kenya, towards evolving an efficient and effective regional pharmaceutical industry that can supply national, regional and international markets with efficacious and quality medicines.

(b) **Two** - the discrimination on the distribution of Covid vaccines. We are all not safe until all of us are safe! Our cause has been given further impetus by our desire to produce covid-



19 vaccines locally, following the lack of access/unequal distribution of covid-19 vaccines globally. Kenya considers local production of pharmaceutical and medical as strategic industry and shall continue to support its growth and development in line with the African Union Commission Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) and 2nd EAC Regional Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan of Action 2017–2027, a regional roadmap to guide the East African Community towards evolving an efficient and effective regional pharmaceutical industry that can supply national, regional and international markets with efficacious and quality medicines.

13. In conclusion **Mr. President**, Kenya reiterates her commitment to UNIDO, and remains ready to contribute to the Director General's efforts to spearhead industrial development in the world, particularly in developing countries.

I thank you, Mr. President.