

**African Group Statement delivered during
the 39th Session of the Industrial Development Board, 22-24
June 2011, by H.E. Ambassador Ukur Kanacho Yatani,
Permanent Representative of Kenya**

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

1. Allow me to express on behalf of the African Group, our pleasure to see you preside over the 39th Session of the Industrial Development Board. I would also like to congratulate the other members of the bureau on their election.
2. The Group is confident that with your experience and skills you will manage the work of the session successfully. The Group would like to thank the outgoing bureau for its commendable work.
3. The Group would also like to thank the Director-General of UNIDO, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, for his opening address and wishes to extend its appreciation to the Secretariat for the arrangement of the meeting.
4. The Group welcomes the outcomes of the 19th Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI-19), held in Algiers, Algeria, from 27 to 31 March 2011.
5. The Group would like to extend its sympathy to the People and Government of Japan for the recent natural disasters and their consequences that befell the country.
6. The Group associates itself with the Statement delivered on behalf of the Group 77 and China.
7. With regard to the Agenda before us, the Group will comment on items 3, 4 (a), (b), (e),(f),(j), 5, 7, 8, and 9, in due course.

Item 3: Annual Report of the Director-General 2010

Mr. President,

1. The African Group takes note of the document IDB.39/2-PBC.27/2 on Annual Report 2010 of UNIDO which gives the opportunity to highlight the importance and the contributions of UNIDO in the process of industrialization in

developing countries, especially the role played by the Organization in the Least Developed Countries.

2. The Group welcomes the continued improvements made by the Organization regarding its process of technical project approval. In this regard, the Group welcomes the revised review mechanism for technical cooperation activities, comprising a Screening and Technical Review Committee (STC) and a Programme Approval and Monitoring Committee (AMC) and its positive impact on project design, implementation modalities as well as monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

3. The Group is pleased to note that the volume of funding for technical cooperation delivery in 2010, reached the amount of \$182 million, almost 15% higher than in the previous year. The Group commends the support of member states, governmental donors, and United Nations multi-donor fund.

4. The African Group appreciates UNIDO's continued efforts to promote agro-business and ensure food security. In this regards, the Group welcomes the role played by UNIDO, FAO and IFAD in the development of the African Agri-business and Agro-industries Development Initiative (3ADI). The Group urges UNIDO and its partners to intensify their efforts to extend the 3ADI programmes to more countries by mobilizing more funds.

I thank you Mr. President.

Item 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

(a) Report of the External Auditor, including the implementation of recommendations of the External Auditor for the biennium 2008-2009; financial performance report for the year 2010 and interim programme performance report for the biennium 2010-2011;

Mr. President,

The Group takes note of document IDB.39/2 on the Report of the External Auditor, including the implementation of the recommendations of the External Auditor for the biennium 2008-2009: financial performance report and programme performance report for the biennium 2010-2011.

Thank you Mr. President.

(b)Financial Situation of UNIDO;

Mr. President,

1. The African Group takes note of the document IDB:39/14-PBC.27/14 on the Financial Situation of UNIDO.
2. The Group takes note of the information that 38 Member States, including 5 LDCs, have already made full payment for their assessed contributions for the year 2011, while partial payments have been received in respect of another 61 Member States.
3. The Group takes note of the slight decrease in the number of Member States without voting rights. In this context, the Group urges those Member States that have not paid their contribution, including advances to the working capital Fund, as well as a partial contribution to do so.
4. The Group notes the current status of the Members States that submitted payment plans to reduce their outstanding assessed contributions, and encourages them to continue their efforts to fulfill their commitments and obligations. The Group takes this opportunity to encourage those Member States in arrears to pay their assessed contributions, including through submitting payment plans to the Organization.
4. The African Group requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts for collecting all outstanding amounts, including from former Member States.

Thank you, Mr. President.

(e)Programme for Change and Organizational Renewal;

Mr. President,

1. The African Group takes note of the information provided in document IDB.39/9-PBC.27/9 on the PCOR and-related-information availed on UNIDO's website. The Group takes note of the progress on the implementation of the programme and looks forward to the early realisation of the PCOR benefits especially with regards to improved deliverance of Technical Cooperation activities.
2. In terms of the financial aspect of the PCOR, while acknowledging the effectiveness of the 'quick wins' employed by UNIDO as cost-saving measures,

the Group reiterates its position that the Organisation consider further budgetary cuttings in the implementation of the PCOR in order to ensure that funding is in line with the approved decisions in GC.13/Dec.15 and IDB.38/Dec.4.

Thank you Mr. President.

(f) Trusts Fund on Food Security and Renewable Energy;

Mr. President,

1. African Group takes note of the information provided in documents IDB.39/10-PBC.27/10 and IDB.39/11-PBC.27/11 on Trust Fund on Food Security and Renewable Energy respectively.

2. With regards to the Trust Fund on Food Security, the Group is pleased to note that significant progress has been made on the pilot program involving 12 Least Developed Countries (LDC's) being promoted under the "3ADI: Africa Agribusiness and Agro-Industries Development Initiative."

3. Concerning access to renewable energy on the African continent, the Group takes note of UNIDO's partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), in particular the programme in West Africa. While acknowledging the work UNIDO is undertaking in this region, the Group urges UNIDO to engage other regions in Africa to ensure shared benefits of industrial development and environmental sustainability through the use of renewable energy. Noting the lengthy preparations leading to the implementation of projects related to energy access, the Group would like to urge the Secretariat to ensure the early delivery of this important contributor to development.

Thank you, Mr. President.

(j) Appointment of an External Auditor

The African Group takes note of document PBC.27/5- IDB.39/5 and PBC.27/CRP.3 on the appointment of an External Auditor. In this regard, the Group would like to reiterate the support to the candidature of Mr. Tanwir Ali Agha of Pakistan for a new term.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Item 5: Programme and Budgets, 2012-2013

Mr. President,

1. The African Group takes note of the revised proposal in the document IDB.39/13-PBC.27/13. Rev.1 on Programme and budgets 2012-2013 according to the PBC conclusion 2011/3, and welcomes the briefing by the Director-General in this regard.
2. The Group welcomes the efforts by the Secretariat to minimize the impact of the budget cuts on its activities in the Major Programme C on Technical Cooperation delivery whilst also increasing the combined expenditure on poverty reduction through productive activities and Trade Capacity building.
3. The Group wishes to reaffirm its conviction of the role of UNIDO in the field of industrialization, which is an instrument to promote economic and social development and a key contributor to the eradication of poverty and the creation of productive employment in Africa.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Item 7: UNIDO activities and events related to energy and environment

1. The African Group takes note of document IDB. 39/20 on UNIDO activities and events related to energy and environment.
2. The Group acknowledges the role of UNIDO in assisting countries with technical support and skills transfer in the energy systems optimisation in industry and the development of sound energy management practices in line with the United Nations energy goals of ensuring universal access to modern forms of energy by 2030 as well as reducing the global energy intensity by 40% by 2030.
3. As we prepare for the Rio+20 summit next year and review our progress 20 years on, the Group commends UNIDO for the work it has done by integrating its green industry programme into the global agenda of transition to a green economy and the assistance it continues to provide to our countries in energy efficiency technical support and the development of energy policies.
4. The African Group welcomes the Vienna Energy Forum and hopes that the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting at the Vienna Energy Forum will provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation in order to address energy challenges.

Thank you Mr. President.

Item 8 Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit

1. The African Group takes note of document IDB.39/15 on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU).
2. The Group further notes the progress made by UNIDO to implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit and urges the Secretariat to carry out a system wide review to put in place the recommendations applicable to UNIDO. The African Group welcomes further information on the compliance and the impact of full implementation of these recommendations on the overall programme delivery.

Thank you Mr. President.

Item 9 Personnel matters

1. The African Group takes note of the document IBD.39/17 on Personnel Matters.
2. With regard to the recruitment process and the Human Resource policy, the Group would like to stress the observance of the principles of transparency, equitable geographical distribution and gender balance
3. The Group wishes to note the information contained in the report on developments since the presentation of the last report on this item of the Agenda and would like to urge the Secretariat to on a continuous basis update Member States on any such developments and changes.

Thank you, Mr. President.