

African Group Statement
Delivered at the 40th session of the Industrial Development Board
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Mr. President (H.E. Ambassador Balazs Csuday, Permanent Representative of Hungary)

On behalf of the African Group, it gives me great pleasure to see you preside over the 40th session of the Industrial Development Board. I would also like to congratulate the members of the Bureau on their election, and assure you of the utmost cooperation from the African Group during the course of work of the Board.

The Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the Chair of the Group of 77 and China.

The Group would like to present its views on the following agenda items: 3,4,5,6,7,8,10 and 11.

Item 3. Annual report of the Director General for 2011 on the Activities of the Organization:

1. The African Group takes note of the document PBC.28/2-IDB.40/2 on the annual report of the DG for 2011 on the activities of the organization. The Group encourages UNIDO to continue its efforts towards promoting industrial activities in developing countries, with the aim of reducing poverty.
2. The Group welcomes the report's indication that the net increase of funds in current project budgets amounted to \$247.5 million, which represents an increase of 36 % over the level in 2010 and the highest recorded in the history of UNIDO, combined with an increase in the actual volume of project services delivered.
3. The Group urges the organization to further develop its activities in the implementation of the Agro-industries Development Initiative (3ADI), and the cooperation in development of the pharmaceutical industries in African countries, two priorities which were reaffirmed by the 19th Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI 19) held in Algiers in 27-31 March 2011.
4. The Group commends the efforts of the Organization aimed at strengthening its activities in the areas of strategic research and policy advice, and urges the

organization to continue to provide its services and support to member states in this important field.

5. The Group urges UNIDO to continue its efforts in cluster development, as African economies and populations can directly benefit from this innovative tool especially in the sectors of agriculture, textile and leather industries.
6. The Group welcomes the launch of the Investment Monitoring Platform, and urges the organization to further extend its scope and strengthen this valuable tool, which aims at providing investors with the information they need about investment in the African countries.

Thank you Mr. President.

Item 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

Mr. President,

7. The African Group takes note of document IDB.40/12 on the Report of the Programme and Budget Committee and related documentation.
8. The Group encourages Member States to continue providing UNIDO with sufficient, stable and predictable resources needed to fulfill its mandate, by paying their assessed contributions and any outstanding dues. The Group also hopes that an effective solution will be reached with regard to amounts owed by former Member States.
9. The African Group reiterates its call for more voluntary contributions, including support from the private sector, to assist UNIDO to expand its activities. The Group encourages the Director General to continue ongoing efforts towards inter-agency mechanisms and cooperation, and dialogue with Member States in order to actively sustain the resource mobilization efforts.

Thank you Mr. President.

Item 5: Activities of the Evaluation Group

10. The African Group takes note of Document IDB. 40/13 on the Activities of the Evaluation Group and its findings. The Group notes, and identifies with, some of the conclusions, including that: while evaluated projects produced planned outputs, outcome level results were difficult to assess and validate owing to the absence of established benchmarks and/or performance indicators; some outcomes could not be realistically attained within the project's lifetime; orientation and focus of country programmes often reflected the availability of funding rather than the national priorities and needs; the dependence of donor-driven funding constrains the design and implementation of country-driven programme and holistic country-level programme.

11. The Group further notes that the acceptance of this evaluation reached 94% in 2011, and urge the Secretariat to make efforts towards aligning UNIDO projects to national priorities of member states.

Thank you Mr. President.

Item 6: Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit

12. The African Group takes note of document IDB.40/14 on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) and the recommendations therein.
13. The Group further notes the concurrence by UNIDO with the recommendations and its efforts towards implementing them. The Group acknowledges, in particular, one of the conclusions of the JIU, that UNIDO remains one of the “best practice” organizations with regards to the status of considerations of reports by its governing bodies owing to its “robust” follow-up process. The African Group would like to encourage UNIDO to take the required steps towards implementing the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in the remaining areas of its activities assessed to be in need of improvement

Thank you Mr. President.

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

14. The African Group takes note of document IDB. 40/15 & IDB.40/16 on UNIDO activities and events related to energy and environment.
15. The Group welcomes UNIDO's active participation at the Conference for Sustainable Development Rio+20. The Group notes with appreciation UNIDO's activities in the field of energy and environment, including the efforts within the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) and the Green Industry Initiative. The Group welcomes UNIDO's lead role in ensuring that the three objectives of SE4ALL: universal access to modern energy services; doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030, were incorporated in the outcome document at Rio+20.
16. The Group firmly believes that energy efficiency and cleaner production mechanisms are vital to the achievement of sustainable industrial development in developing countries. In this context, the Group urges UNIDO to further strengthen its advisory role in national energy policy formulation, and to increase its technical assistance to Member States in this area.
17. The Group further notes with appreciation UNIDO's efforts in cooperating with relevant partners in the area of environment and energy. In this regard, the Group is encouraged by UNIDO's continued partnerships with the Montreal Protocol and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which benefit a significant number of African States.

18. The Group welcomes the ECOWAS High-Level Forum on “Paving the Way for Sustainable Energy for All in West Africa” which was held in Accra, Ghana from 29 to 31 October 2012. The Forum contributed to the establishment of a framework for implementing SE4ALL in the region as well as initiating a collaboration of ECOWAS policies for both renewable energy and energy efficiency. Whilst welcoming UNIDO’s efforts in this regard, the Group urges the Organisation to intensify such activities on the rest of the continent.

Thank you Mr. President.

Item 8: Review of the Progress of the Deliberations of the Informal Working Group:

Mr President,

19. The African Group would like to thank the two co-chairs of the informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources of UNIDO, the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, Ambassador Ana Teresa Dengo and Mr Alberto Groff of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland, for their dedicated work and for the able manner in which they have been steering the deliberations.
20. The African Group is of the view that the SWOT Analysis allowed an opportunity for Member States to evaluate and assess UNIDO’s function and role within the United Nations as well as the Global context within which it finds itself.
21. UNIDO is at a unique crossroads where the development agenda is changing and Member States have an opportunity to re-define and shape the Organisations niche as a driver for sustainable Industrial Development. The Group therefore is of the view that this informal working group is imperative to formulate perspectives on the way forward for the Organisation
22. The African Group believes that although UNIDO has been a successful partner in implementing Technical Cooperation projects within the African Continent, further work needs to be done on scaling up interventions for greater impact in our communities.
23. The Group appreciates the eleven presentations that have been held thus far in the context of the Informal Working Group, allowing Member States the opportunity to make informed decisions and for the open manner in which the discussions have been taking place.
24. The African Group looks forward to the continued dialogue within this forum. The Group is of the view that the conclusions of this working group which will pave the way for UNIDO to further fulfill its mandate on Industrial Development.

Thank you Mr. President.

African Group

Item 10: Matters related to intergovernmental, non governmental, governmental and others organizations

Mr. President,

25. The African Group takes note of document IDB.40/20 and IDB.40/23 on matters related to intergovernmental, non governmental, governmental and others organizations.
26. The Group welcomes the requests of the International Gas Union (IGU) and the Global Alliance of Small and Medium Enterprises (GASMEs) to benefit from a consultative status with UNIDO. The group notes that the activities of both Non-Governmental Organization are complementary to those of UNIDO for energy and the environment and trade capacity building.

Thank you Mr. President.

Item 11: Selection Process for the post of the Director-General: Introduction of a candidates' forum.

Mr. President,

27. The African Group takes note of documents IDB.40/21, IDB.40/21/Add.1 and IDB.40/26 related to the selection process for the post of the Director-General.
28. The Group also takes note of recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit on the best practices regarding filling the posts of executive heads of Organizations in the United Nations system.
29. The Group encourages the adoption of some of these recommendations and notes that their implementation is already effective in other specialized Organizations of the United Nations.
30. The Group endorses the proposed procedure for introduction of a candidates' forum as proposed by the Secretariat of UNIDO.

Thank you Mr. President.

Item 13: Date and Place of the Fifteenth Session of the General Conference.

Mr. President,

31. The African Group highly appreciates the generous offer made by the Government of Peru to host the fifteenth session of the General Conference in Lima 2-6 December 2013.
32. The African Group is confident that the draft decision being tabled in this regard will be approved by all members of the Board.

Thank you Mr. President.