

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HON. EKWOW SPIO-GARBRAH,
MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, GHANA, AT THE 16TH
SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED
NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION
(UNIDO) VIENNA, AUSTRIA, 30 NOVEMBER, 2015**

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguish Delegates,

Ghana would like to join other delegates in congratulating you on your election as President to the 16th Session of the UNIDO General Conference as well as the other members of the Bureau for their respective elections. We are confident that, under your leadership, we will certainly have positive outcomes at this meeting. You can count on our full support and collaboration for a successful conference.

2. As a Member Country of UNIDO for over four decades, Ghana appreciates her long partnerships with UNIDO which over the years have made significant contributions towards the promotion and development of our industrial sector leading to job creation and poverty reduction. We believe UNIDO is very well placed to make significant contributions to the successful implementation of the thematic areas prescribed under Ghana's Industrial Policy.

3. Ghana's Industrial Policy is aimed at creating sustainable jobs and contributing to a greater export revenue target of five billion United States Dollars from the Non Traditional Export sector by the year 2017, as projected under the National Export Development Programme.

4. Ghana recognizes the enhanced role of UNIDO in the global development agenda after the adoption of its new mandate of "Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)" which focuses on poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

5. We acknowledge with much enthusiasm the recognition given to UNIDO as the initiator of ISID under the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals at the UN Development Summit held this September in New York. The theme of **Goal 9**, which is to "Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation", aligns fully with the objectives of our Industrial Policy.

6. Ghana desires to place industrial growth at the centre of its economic resurgence. Ghana therefore needs to continue to draw on the immense expertise of UNIDO for assistance and guidance in the implementation of on-going projects but also for those outlined under the proposed Ghana Country

Programme submitted this year for UNIDO's consideration and support.

7. We wish to express appreciation and gratitude to UNIDO for responding promptly to our request by fielding a Mission to Ghana **early this month**. The main components of the Ghana Country Programme are:

- Agro-industries value chain development;
- Investment promotion, entrepreneurship and skills development; and
- Renewable energy/green growth/cleaner production/energy efficiency/waste management

8. These three major components represent the core of our industrial policy and their successful implementation would contribute tremendously to the renaissance of the country's industrial sector. But in addition, Ghana's industries also need access to equity funding and lower interest loans, to affordable and appropriate technologies, and to a workforce that is well trained and prepared for industrial work. UNIDO could help in all these areas.

9. In view of Ghana's agro-industrial ambitions, we call on UNIDO to forge much closer collaborations with other multilateral organizations such as UNESCO, FAO, UNITAR and the African Development Bank (AfDB) to enable Ghana (and

other countries) to gain the most synergies from this collective effort.

10. Ghana welcomes UNIDO's intervention in several sectors, to promote the "Made in Ghana" brand.

11. Ghana is committed to the successful outcome of the discussions of this session of the General Conference and on the future of UNIDO.

12. Let me conclude by congratulating Mr. Li Yong for his successful tenure of office thus far as the Director-General of UNIDO, and the commendable work he has done since his assumption of office.

13. Ghana wishes to assure the leadership of UNIDO of its support in fulfilling your mandate under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and at all times.

Excellencies,

I thank you all for your kind attention and wish you successful deliberations.