



**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DELIVERED BY AMB.
MICHAEL .A.O. OYUGI , PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA
DURING THE 16TH SESSION OF THE UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE, 2ND
DECEMBER 2015, VIENNA**

Madam President

Let me begin by extending my delegation's warm congratulations to you on your well-deserved election as the President of the 16th Session of the UNIDO General Conference. In the same breadth, we congratulate the other members of the General Committee on their election.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made on behalf of the African Group as well as that made on behalf of the G77 and China.

We extend our appreciation to the Director-General, Mr. Li Yong for his opening address. We also thank the Secretariat for coordinating the arrangements for the Conference.

Madam President,

The overarching theme of this year's General Conference- "**Sustainable industrialization for shared prosperity**" resonates well with, and captures the aspirations of many developing countries. Industrial development can only be sustainable if it promotes growth of endogenous productive capacities, improves the living standards and reduces inequality, especially through growth in the quantity and remuneration of jobs in the manufacturing sector.

My delegation appreciates the efforts of UNIDO in strengthening dialogue with Member States and relevant stakeholders in advocating the relevance of ISID, which has contributed to the global processes for the formulation of the SDGs. This has resulted in the adoption by the UN General Assembly of **inclusive and sustainable industrialization** as a composite goal together with **infrastructure and innovation**, as Goal 9 among the set of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Madam President

Generating economic growth that is more inclusive in order to more effectively reduce poverty is a major challenge. In Kenya, we are continuing to strengthen the private sector as the main engine of economic growth, and to make this growth more inclusive than it has

been, by creating employment opportunities, especially for the youth. Kenya is cognizant of the fact that, it is necessary to stimulate private-sector activity through the establishment of a conducive business environment, while enhancing the skills of Kenya's workforce to respond to the demands of the emerging labour market of a transforming economy. Therefore UNIDO's new mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development resonates well with Kenya's aspiration in this regard.

Madam President

In order to realize Goal 9, however, a systematic review mechanism and a robust implementation plan should be put in place as a matter of priority. In this respect, my delegation supports the proposed establishment of an Open Working Group for purposes of a review mechanism and appropriate follow up. The Open Working Group should work closely with the United Nations Global Statistical Commission which is expected to develop a global indicator framework by March 2016.

Madam President

Kenya has over the years dutifully paid its assessed contributions on time because we believe that timely payments of such assessed contributions would support the organization to fulfil and discharge its mandate accordingly. We request those with arrears to accelerate the process of paying the overdue balances in order to facilitate the organization to undertake its financial obligations.

We take note of the financial challenges which UNIDO is facing. We appreciate the various initiatives and proposals developed by the Director-General aimed at streamlining and strengthening activities of the organization with a view to increasing efficiency, such as the proposed reorganization of UNIDO field structure and its associated capacities at Headquarters.

The proposed reduction of Regional Offices from nine to five, and the merging or conversion of the remaining regional offices into Country Offices should not undermine UNIDO service delivery and technical cooperation activities. The restructuring and reorganization of the offices

should be conducted in a phased manner. We urge the Director-General to implement the proposed action plan in consultations with Member States. Further, the reorganization and restructuring exercise should bolster the existing interphase between the field offices and UNIDO Headquarters. In addition, the proposed reduction of Regional offices must be done transparently based on clear objective criteria.

Madam President

Science, technology and innovation are important pillars that accelerate industrial development. Kenya has made substantive progress in the use of technology, particularly mobile telephony for financial personal and business transactions. This has increased financial inclusion. Farmers, women's groups, youth groups, small and medium size enterprises and other entrepreneurs have taken advantage of this platform to access financing for improving and expanding their businesses.

We therefore appreciate UNIDO's activities which are aimed at technology transfer, skills development and improving the economic well-being of developing countries.

Madam President,

Kenya like many other countries has continued to experience environmental challenges mainly due to over-exploitation of natural resources, emission of wastes and pollutants into the environment leading to environmental degradation. These challenges are further compounded by the negative impact of climate change. In this regard, we take note of UNIDO activities in the realm of environment (*as contained in document GC 16/10*) which are aimed at promoting sustainable models of industrial development. We encourage UNIDO to strengthen its cooperation with the Global Environmental Facility in order to expand adaptation programmes that increases resilience to the challenges of climate change. In this domain, we look forward to a concrete outcome at the ongoing negotiations of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris.

Madam President,

Investment in renewable energy has become increasingly more critical for sustainable industrial development. In sub-Saharan Africa, Kenya was the country to introduce feed-in-tariff policy as an incentive for the production of electricity from renewable sources. Kenya generates about two-thirds of its electricity from renewable sources, chiefly hydropower and geothermal that account for 38% and 25% of supplies respectively. We therefore appreciate various initiatives and activities undertaken by UNIDO in promoting the use of renewable energy. One such initiative is the joint collaboration between Kenya, Japan, and UNIDO in promoting low-carbon low-emission technologies (LCETs) in Kenya. This is expected to simultaneously address three key global challenges of energy poverty, job creation and climate change mitigation.

Madam President

Lastly, but certainly not least, it is notable that Sustainable Development Goal 5 recognizes the need to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. In this area, we commend UNIDO for taking steps in developing organisational gender policy and most recently for establishing a senior level mechanism to ensure accountability through the Gender Mainstreaming Board chaired by the Director- General himself.

Kenya is committed to implementing women empowerment and has implemented several policies aimed at promoting gender equality. The public procurement affirmative action for women entrepreneurs, the Women Enterprise Fund, and the Constitutional requirement for a 2/3 same gender representation limit in the National Assembly and the Senate are examples of such policies.

We encourage UNIDO to sustain its efforts in mainstreaming gender concerns in its core programmes and activities and integrate gender in the thematic priority areas of the organisation in order to realize gender parity.

I wish the 16th UNIDO General Conference all the success.

Thank you Madam President.