

**NIGERIA STATEMENT AT THE SIXTEENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION**

DELIVERED BY

INDUSTRY,

**THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE AND
INVESTMENT**

HER EXCELLENCY MS AISHA ABUBAKAR

VIENNA 30 NOVEMBER - 3 DECEMBER 2015

Madam President,

The Nigerian delegation would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 16th Session of the General Conference of UNIDO and other members of the Bureau for their elections. I assure you of the support of my delegation. We would also like to commend the Secretariat for arrangements for the conference.

2. The Nigerian Delegations aligns itself with statements made by the G.77 and China as well as the statement by The African Group.

Madam President,

3 5. The Sixteenth Session of the General Conference of UNIDO is quite unique and important considering the fact that it is taking place shortly after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by UNGA. My Delegation commends UNIDO's untiring efforts, particularly activities organized in different fora to articulate industrialization concept as part of Goal 9 of the SDGs.

4 3. Nigeria notes the Director General's inspiring comments in his opening remarks including the key activities of UNIDO since the LIMA Declaration in 2013. These comments have indeed set the tone for frank, challenging but hopeful deliberations that would move the way forward, in our quest for the desired inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

5 4. My Delegation would therefore commend the DG and his staff for the role they have played and continue to play in spite of difficult situations in ensuring the gradual but realistic implementation of Inclusive Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) through its pilots projects in Three countries, using the programme for Country Partnership (PCP). We look forward to replicating this programme which is already enjoying tremendous support from many International Financial Institutions and The Private Sector in my country, taken into account the consideration of our comparative advantage as well as agreed Programme for Country Partnership (PCP).

6 5. The Nigerian Delegation further commends UNIDO for organizing The Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa in July 2015 as well as the Conference on the "Operationalization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for Africa's Industrialization" on the margins of UNGA in New York in September 2015. These two special events, which was attended by some African Heads of States including President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria, was a testimony of support at the very highest level in Africa, for UNIDO's programme. The two conferences underscore the relevance of Resource mobilization, international partnership and support for ISID in Africa. We welcome the collaboration between The African Union and UNIDO particularly in the latter's realization of its Agenda 2063- The Africa We Want.

7 6. The African Continent has the highest number of poor people because the economy is commodity based rather than value addition and I therefore urge UNIDO to tailor its programs and reforms to ensure a sustainable industrial base for the continents long term development. This is the core of the "change mantra" which the present government under the

leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari is driving, that is, diversification of the economy.

Let me seize this opportunity to appreciate UNIDO's tremendous support for the Nigerian Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP).

Madam President,

8.7. While Nigeria expresses understanding with the Director General on his proposed Field Policy and network Action Plan contained in document GC16/6 that will introduce some reforms in the operations of UNIDO's field offices due to financial difficulties currently facing the organization, my Delegation is however concerned that some of the reforms may affect the visibility of UNIDO in member states and impact negatively its operations in some of these states.

Accordingly, and mindful of the on going consultations on this issue, my delegation urges caution in the implementation of these reforms, particularly in relation to Country Offices (COs) and Regional field Offices (ROs). The need to consult and take into account the impact of the reform in some member states should be carefully considered when implementing the reforms as the impact may differ from country to country. Nigeria has been and will continue to value and support the retention of UNIDO's office and international staff in Abuja.

9.8. Finally Madam President, my Delegation reiterates Nigeria's commitment to collaborating with UNIDO in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal Nine - Built resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

We look forward to the adoption of clear and useful decisions at the Sixteenth General Conference.

Thank you for your attention.