



**STATEMENT  
BY**

**AMBASSADOR TEBOGO SEKOLO  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION**

**16<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**2 DECEMBER 2015**

**Check against delivery**

Mr President

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of my delegation I would like to congratulate you, Mr President, together with the members of your bureau, on your appointment. South Africa has full confidence in your ability to steer the deliberations of this General Conference towards fruitful outcomes.

Please be assured of the full support of my delegation to you and your team throughout the course of this Conference.

South Africa associates itself with the statements of the African Group, and that of the Group of 77+China.

My delegation wishes to acknowledge the support provided by UNIDO to on-going efforts to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development on the African continent. Over the years, UNIDO has been a constant supporter of the African Union's initiatives on Industrial Development, such as the African Productive Capacity Initiative, the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa, African Investment Promotion Agencies Network, and many other initiatives that contribute to industrialisation of the continent.

South Africa considers its own development as inextricably linked to that of the rest of the African continent, and acknowledges the support provided by UNIDO with the on-going efforts to establish and promote the continent's industrial development.

In this regard, South Africa welcomes the Director General's establishment of a new Programme for Country Partnerships, aimed at promoting partnership-based modalities for the provision of UNIDO services. We further welcome the on-going programmes of Country Partnership in Ethiopia and Senegal, and

look forward to an assessment of these programmes, and sharing of lessons learnt and best practices.

Mr President

My delegation wishes to recall the historic adoption of the Lima Declaration in Peru in 2013, which sets out UNIDO's development priorities, placing special emphasis on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), addressing all three dimensions of sustainable development: social equity, economic growth and environmental protection. My delegation appreciates the Director General's commitment to the implementation of this mandate, by strengthening the Organisation's partnership approach, enhancing partnerships with the private sector, partnering with development finance institutions and increasing South-South and triangular cooperation.

South Africa is firmly of the view that Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development must be at the centre of efforts to overcome poverty and underdevelopment. It is against this backdrop that my delegation welcomes the inclusion of Goal 9 focusing on Industrial Development that was recently adopted under the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. South Africa assures you of its cooperation in the implementation of this goal.

The country is committing all its efforts into growing the economy, creating decent jobs and building a more equitable and just society for South Africans. International evidence point to the fact that manufacturing is the engine of growth and employment of all economies that have achieved high gross domestic product (GDP) and employment growth. In this regard we acknowledge that the manufacturing sector is key in supporting the growth and diversification of South Africa's economy. It is therefore our belief that the development of the manufacturing sector is core to the industrialisation process.

It is in this context that South Africa approached UNIDO to assist with the Operation Phakisa initiative, to unlock investment in marine engineering-

related infrastructure and manufacturing. Operation Phakisa focuses on a collaborative effort between government and the private sector in unleashing South Africa's potential in the ocean economy amongst others.

In a few days, the Director-General, will travel to South Africa to attend the FOCAC Summit, and will also meet with high level industry captains. This visit will cement the existing partnership between South Africa and UNIDO. We are looking forward to a continued close cooperation with UNIDO, to be the trusted, efficient and reliable development partner.

Mr President,

Turning to the operational work of the Organization, I wish to make the following remarks:

Taking into account the financial situation of UNIDO, and the mandate bestowed upon the organization to implement Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, my delegation wishes to recall the Strategic Guidance Document. This document serves as the primary instrument to manage the elaboration of programmatic and budgetary frameworks of the organization, thereby tasking UNIDO to identify and optimize under-utilized resources and pursue innovative sources of financing, while seeking to further generate savings.

With that said, my delegation fully supports the proposed Programme and Budgets, 2016-2017, presented during the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the IDB (Document idb.43/Dec6), and the Medium-term programme Framework 2016-2019 (document IDB.43/Dec.7).

Mr President

On the issue of the readjustments of UNIDO's field operations, my delegation has noted the DG's recommendations and is of the view that the proposed changes are reasonable taking into consideration the financial situation of the

Organisation. However, South Africa is of the view that these changes should not impact on the implementation of projects in the field.

As 2015 marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action during the 1995 World Conference on Women, which was held in Beijing, China, my delegation wishes to commend UNIDO, for the update on the Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women Strategy 2016-2019, which is aligned with the medium-term programme framework 2016-2019, outlining how the Organisation will implement its commitments towards gender equality and women empowerment. Indeed, gender equality and women's empowerment are key to achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), as mandated by Member States in the Lima Declaration adopted in December 2013.

Mr President,

My delegation reiterates its concerns regarding the withdrawal of some Member States from the Organization, which continues to hamper the regular budget of the organisation, and further compromising its work. We call upon the Director General to continue in his efforts to promote the crucial mandate of UNIDO, and to remind the international community that industrial development is a catalyst to end poverty and suffering of people all over the world. The responsibility to fight poverty and socio-economic injustices should be a commitment of all countries at different stages of development.

We all need to join hands to explore different approaches to lift our economies out of abject poverty, unemployment and inequalities. In this regard, Mr President, it is my delegation's view that UNIDO needs to be at the forefront of global efforts to harness industry to ensure a strong and sustained growth path of our economies. The theme of this General Conference, therefore, is quite apt and resonates with this thinking.

In conclusion, South Africa trusts that this General Conference will lead to the revitalisation and strengthening of UNIDO as a critical partner for the

promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. South Africa further looks forward to continued fruitful partnerships with UNIDO and pledges its support for efforts by the organisation, particularly those in the African continent and for South- South Co-operation.

I thank you.