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**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up
to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences
and summits in the economic, social and related fields**

Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016–2025)

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits the report of the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in accordance with General Assembly resolution [70/293](#).

* [A/75/150](#).



Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [70/293](#), in which the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization was requested to submit to the General Assembly, through the Secretary-General, a periodic report on progress made in the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016–2025).

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an update on progress made in the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016–2025) for the period from June 2019 to June 2020. It contains descriptions of ongoing, completed and new activities and interventions, as well as the milestones reached and the results achieved so far. The report bears testimony to the collaborative efforts made by the international community to mobilize financial and non-financial resources at the regional, multilateral and bilateral levels for the successful implementation of the Third Decade.

A. Status of industrial development in Africa

2. During the reporting period, economic growth in Africa was mixed. In 2019, the economy grew steadily, increasing in size by 2.9 per cent compared with the global average of 3 per cent. Important gains were recorded in poverty reduction and health indicators. Technology and innovation was increasingly embraced across the continent. Progress was also made with regard to economic integration, with the launch in July 2019 of the operational phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is expected to yield significant benefits for Africa, including a 53 per cent increase in trade in industrial goods and a 25 per cent boost in intra-African trade by 2040. Furthermore, Africa enjoyed some of the highest global returns on foreign direct investment. For the first time in a decade, investment accounted for more than half of the continent's growth, with private consumption accounting for less than one third.

3. At the beginning of 2020, economic growth in Africa remained on track to continue rising. However, because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis, the continent's economic outlook for 2020 and beyond appears dim, as is the case with the rest of the world. The World Bank warned that the COVID-19 pandemic would have a severe economic and social impact on Africa and that, according to revised economic growth projections for 2020 of minus 5.1 per cent, the pandemic would trigger the region's first recession in 25 years. According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), a bigger contraction in gross domestic product (GDP), 3.4 per cent, down by 7.3 percentage points compared with the growth projected before the outbreak of COVID-19, can be expected in 2020.

4. With regard to manufacturing, the downturn in global manufacturing output in 2019 due to weaker external demand, the widening global repercussions of trade tensions among dominant economies and the resulting uncertainty about investment has had an impact on manufacturing output in Africa. In sub-Saharan Africa, the growth rate of manufacturing value added, which had been steady since 2016, dropped from 2.7 per cent in 2018 to 1.3 per cent in 2019. However, the share of manufacturing value added in the GDP of sub-Saharan Africa continued to grow, increasing from 10.6 per cent in 2018 to 11.3 per cent in 2019 to \$190 billion in current United States dollars, five times the level in 1986. In the fourth quarter of 2019, the continent's growth rate stood at 1 per cent and, in the first quarter of 2020, Africa's manufacturing output increased slightly by 0.2 per cent.

B. New developments in industry in Africa and the global economy

1. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

5. Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered the deepest global recession in decades and has had a devastating impact on the global economy. According to the

World Bank, the baseline forecast is a 5.2 per cent contraction in global GDP in 2020, making it the deepest global recession since the Second World War. Supply chain disruptions halting the global manufacturing industry, compounded by falling commodity prices, resulted in a \$50 billion decrease in manufacturing production as early as February 2020. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that the global economy could lose between 5 million and 25 million jobs, with losses in labour income in the range of \$860 billion to \$3.4 trillion.

6. The COVID-19 pandemic was confirmed to have spread to Africa on 14 February 2020, with the first case having been confirmed in Egypt and the first death in Nigeria. Against a steep increase in COVID-19 cases in many parts of the world, with over 10 million cases registered worldwide in the first half of 2020, Africa recorded only about 300,000 cases and 6,000 deaths related to COVID-19 by the end of June 2020. In terms of confirmed cases and deaths per capita, Africa appeared to have been less affected than other continents. Estimates of the economic impact of COVID-19 in sub-Saharan Africa vary but are in the order of at least \$100 billion. As a result of the pandemic, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects that the economy of sub-Saharan Africa will contract by 1.6 per cent in 2020, which is its worst performance on record. According to the World Bank, the pandemic will cost sub-Saharan Africa between \$37 billion and \$79 billion in output losses in 2020 because of lower demand, reduced commodity prices, decreased production and shortages of supplies, investment and labour.

7. Africa's response to the pandemic has been swift at all levels. At the continental level, the African Union endorsed the Africa Joint Continental Strategy for the COVID-19 Outbreak in February 2020, which provided a public health platform to ensure complementary efforts by member States and regional economic communities. The African Union COVID-19 Response Fund was established by the Africa Centres for Disease Control in collaboration with the AfroChampions public-private initiative to raise an initial \$150 million for immediate needs and up to \$400 million to support a sustained health response and socioeconomic assistance to the most vulnerable. At the national level, most African countries enforced quarantines, lockdowns and border closures. Remedial fiscal and monetary measures were also initiated and digital technologies, such as mobile money, were employed to transfer cash to the poor and most vulnerable. Regional economic communities have been proactive, unveiling initiatives in their respective regions. Governments, the private sector and civil society have also formed partnerships to fight the disease.

2. African Continental Free Trade Area

8. The operational phase of AfCFTA was launched in July 2019. That was followed by the establishment of the AfCFTA secretariat, whose role it is to facilitate the efficient conduct of business of AfCFTA. In October 2019, the African Union, in partnership with the AfroChampions initiative, officially launched the Trillion Dollar Investment Framework to fully operationalize AfCFTA through private sector-driven investment across various sectors on the continent by 2030. The objective of the Framework, which was fully endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2020, is to create a private sector-led blended finance vehicle for infrastructure and investments in strategic projects on the continent through development finance institutions, banks and credit institutions, as well as through sovereign funds and private funds. That major step would be supported by monitoring and incentive mechanisms to ensure that projects are better prioritized, adequately funded and deployed more swiftly.

3. Africa Union summit on Africa's industrialization and economic diversification

9. The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at its thirty-third ordinary session held in Addis Ababa in February 2020, called on the African Union Commission, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the AfroChampions initiative to organize a summit on Africa's industrialization and economic diversification. Preparations for the organization of the summit were initiated in February 2020. The summit is expected to serve as a platform for discussing concrete actions to boost Africa's industrial development in the twenty-first century and thereby contribute to the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development in order to accelerate sustainable solutions to the world's biggest challenges. It is also envisaged that key decisions could be taken at the summit at the regional and continental levels to accelerate Africa's industrial development through AfCFTA. The summit is due to be held in Niamey during Africa Industrialization Week from 16 to 20 November 2020.

II. Progress in the implementation of key priorities of the Third Decade

A. Agribusiness and rural development

10. During the reporting period, UNIDO implemented several programmes and projects to promote agribusiness and agro-industry. In the Sudan, a project funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation supported the development of value chains for sesame, horticulture, fodder and groundnuts. Up until May 2020, 1,467 smallholder farmers have been trained and guaranteed loans from financial institutions, which has led to the creation of 1,117 seasonal jobs. In Uganda, UNIDO is helping to reduce vulnerability to climate change in the banana value chain by promoting sustainable farming methods, modernizing facilities and training value chain actors to meet local and export quality standards. As a result, juice and wine production has quadrupled, 2,500 new smallholder farmers have entered the value chain and the average income of farmers is expected to increase by 20 per cent.

11. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) initiated a €40 million fisheries and aquaculture value chain development project, funded by the European Union, in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. In Mozambique, a €1 million cassava value chain development project funded by the European Union increased the availability and accessibility of quality cassava inputs and supported the establishment of 4 processing enterprises and 20 cottage industries led by women. In several African countries, FAO initiated the implementation of the AgrInvest initiative, which leverages private investment in agrifood systems by fostering enabling policies and conducive regulatory conditions. In Ethiopia, FAO partnered with the Rabobank Foundation to facilitate access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises in the wheat value chain, which helped empower six producer organizations and led to the design of special agriculture output and input finance solutions.

12. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) continued to support several countries in the development of various value chains. In Uganda, 32,000 people in the vegetable oil value chain, including 9,060 women, will directly benefit from IFAD support. In Liberia, IFAD partnered with the World Bank to support the Smallholder Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project, which has benefited some 38,000 smallholder farmers. In Côte d'Ivoire,

assistance is being provided in the mango and rice value chains and plans to establish 10 modern mini rice mills are under way. That is expected to significantly improve the quality of local rice and enhance its competitiveness relative to imports. In partnership with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development, IFAD will also support the establishment of a modern industrial mango processing unit with a capacity of 6,000 tons per year.

13. In Senegal, an agricultural value chain project implemented by UNIDO and IFAD provided training on sustainable and resilient agricultural value chains to 1,187 people, 53 per cent of whom were women. In Morocco, UNIDO and IFAD are working on a joint rural development programme to help mountain populations in the milk, honey and fruit tree value chains adapt to climate change and increase and diversify their income by supplying them with climate-resilient equipment and providing them with training on sustainable management methods.

14. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) supported the livestock value chain through the Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign of the African Union. The sterile insect technique and drones were used to fight tsetse flies in Burkina Faso, Chad, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In Mauritius, a new sterile insect technique facility producing 15 million sterile flies per week was inaugurated to curb the number of exotic fruit flies.

B. Trade capacity-building

15. UNIDO continued to implement various programmes and projects aimed at strengthening export competitiveness. Under its West Africa Competitiveness Programme, a \$6.2 million project funded by the European Union was launched in Ghana in March 2019 to enhance product quality and export capacity in the cassava, mango, pineapple, cosmetics and personal-care products value chains. In Sierra Leone, a \$5 million project was initiated with the International Trade Centre (ITC) to strengthen the technical and human resource capacities of quality infrastructure institutions. In South Africa, a \$1.4 million project funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs was initiated with the objective of helping vegetable oil value chain actors to comply with international standards and facilitating market access for small and medium-sized enterprises.

16. ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), ITC, regional economic communities and other partners continued to support African countries in developing strategies for the implementation of AfCFTA. National strategies for 15 countries, including Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea, Kenya, the Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe were developed.

17. In August 2019, AfDB signed a \$4.8 million institutional support grant with the African Union to support the AfCFTA secretariat in Ghana. The grant will help the secretariat to facilitate the efficient conduct of business of AfCFTA, including the development of work programmes and annual budgets and the implementation of decisions taken by Ministers and Heads of State and Government. The grant will also be used to assist efforts to promote the full ratification of AfCFTA by all member States.

18. During the reporting period, UNCTAD continued to provide trade facilitation support to African countries, with 27 countries benefiting from the Automated System for Customs Data in 2019. That system provides live information and statistics to beneficiary countries, enabling them to detect bad practices in customs operations and increase efficiency. Zambia was provided with assistance to conduct an AfCFTA impact assessment study. Angola and Namibia were also provided with assistance in

the development of their national trade policies. In July 2019, UNCTAD partnered with the African Union Commission to develop and launch the AfCFTA online mechanism for reporting, monitoring and eliminating non-tariff barriers.

19. In July 2019, ITC and the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission launched the African Trade Observatory, which is aimed at transforming the collection, use and dissemination of trade-related information to facilitate policy and business decisions, increasing intra-African trade and spurring on industrialization, economic diversification and achievement of the objectives of AfCFTA. ITC also implemented various other projects, including an initiative funded by the Department for International Development of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to facilitate Indian trade and investment for Africa, which facilitated trade and investment linkages between India and five East African countries. In Ethiopia, an Indian textiles company officially inaugurated a new factory in Mekelle Industrial Park, which led to the creation of 2,000 jobs. Four Indian spice companies are partnering with Rwandan farmers in cultivating hybrid chilies through the introduction of six new varieties of chili into Rwanda.

20. The World Trade Organization (WTO) continued to implement various trade-related projects to support African countries. Through diagnostic trade integration studies, certain least developed countries in Africa were provided training on sector-by-sector analytical approaches to facilitate the identification of trade-related needs in infrastructure development and industrialization. As a result, the Agricultural Development Company of Benin increased its pineapple production by 25 per cent to 1,500 boxes per month and was able to generate new exports. In Burkina Faso, WTO support enabled 6,679 people (80 per cent of whom were women) to increase their incomes by joining the mango value chain and 3,217 people (90 per cent of whom were women) by joining the cashew value chain. Overall, 1,436 new jobs were created in the two sectors.

21. In the East African Community, UNIDO and ITC, along with other development partners, continued to implement the Market Access Upgrade Programme to support increased exports of agribusiness and horticultural products and to promote regional integration and access to European markets. In Kenya, a project valued at €3.7 million was launched by UNIDO to support value chains for green beans, snow peas, chilies, mango, passion fruits, macadamia, ground nuts, herbs and spices. ITC trained over 123 “quality champions”, while over 65 small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives in the coffee, tea and horticultural sectors were provided with assistance to improve their credit profiles and access to finance. Three small and medium-sized enterprises were provided with assistance to help them to obtain a total of \$1.4 million in loans.

22. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and UNIDO collaborated in the development of the Regional Enterprises Competitiveness Programme and Access to the Market Project (RECAMP), which is funded by the European Union and whose objective is to enhance the competitiveness and access to markets of the horticultural, leather and leather products and agroprocessing value chains of small and medium-sized enterprises, thereby contributing to the deepening of regional economic integration.

23. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) provided several African countries with training related to the Patent Cooperation Treaty on patent application and processing management at the international and national phases, as well as on the use of the information technology (IT) tools related to that Treaty. Over 130 participants received training in Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Seychelles and Uganda. In partnership with the African Regional Intellectual Property

Organization, WIPO also organized a training programme on patent drafting in Harare for 35 participants from 20 African countries.

C. Entrepreneurship and skills development

24. UNIDO implemented various entrepreneurship programmes and projects. In Ethiopia, a textiles centre of excellence was established, providing training to over 1,015 people, who have since been taken on by garment factories. In Somalia, UNIDO partnered with the Government of Italy to provide training for business start-ups in the construction, renewable energy and fisheries value chains. A total of 29 business plans have been developed and negotiations to raise €10 million have started. In Morocco, UNIDO is supporting the Government of Morocco to strengthen its position as a regional road transportation hub by establishing a training academy. In South Sudan, UNIDO collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to enhance and nurture the entrepreneurial skills of 1,065 women and young people.

25. ILO implemented 23 value chain development projects in 13 African countries, with a focus on entrepreneurship. In Egypt, it partnered with the World Food Programme (WFP) to train 50,252 women, 13,000 of whom were given support to start income-generating projects under the Start and Improve Your Business entrepreneurship development programme. In the Central African Republic, training in entrepreneurship and business creation was provided to 320 young people. In Mali, 1,250 young people benefited from support for entrepreneurial projects through training tools, in which the National Employment and National Youth Employment Agencies had received training from ILO.

26. In Togo, 50,000 people benefited directly from a project that IFAD has been implementing to promote rural entrepreneurship and 230,000 people benefited indirectly. IFAD has been implementing similar projects in Cameroon, where 4,687 agropastoral businesses are expected to be created, and Madagascar, where 500,000 people, including 150,000 women, have directly benefited. Through the SheTrades Commonwealth programme, ITC carried out capacity-building and business linkage activities for women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises in Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria. Over 3,000 such companies received training in trade-related skills. Business pipelines worth about \$90 million were built. Partnerships have resulted in 15 business support organizations offering new services, including the publication of a directory of women-owned businesses.

27. The African Union Development Agency, in partnership with the Ecobank Group and other technical and financial partners, including AfDB, Afreximbank, the European Union, the Bank of New Zealand, KfW, the German Agency for International Cooperation and UNIDO developed a COVID-19 response to support African micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises by providing direct finance and price subsidies; supporting access to new markets; and empowering micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises to gain access to critical capabilities.

28. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) continued the implementation of the employment and entrepreneurship programme for public works in Somalia. A total of 330 young people received training in soft and transferable skills and engineering skills for use in the construction value chains. Two hundred young people received training on youth entrepreneurship and business start-ups, following which, all of them reported having gained appropriate skills for the labour market in Somalia.

29. IAEA awarded 13 doctoral fellowships to African candidates to study at foreign universities and 10 Masters fellowships to study at Egyptian and Ghanaian

universities. Two postgraduate courses in radiation protection and safety were conducted for 35 young African professionals. Twenty regional projects were developed under the African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology. IAEA also helped to develop e-learning tools on research reactors and neutron activation analysis, which is now used by professionals from 12 African member States.

D. Industrial policy and statistics

30. UNIDO continued to conduct activities related to industrial policy advice and statistics. For example, industrial policy-related training, statistical surveys and workshops were conducted in the United Republic of Tanzania. UNIDO contributed to the third edition of the industrial policy for policymakers training programme conducted in South Africa in September 2019. The programme focused on the challenges to industrial development of the fourth industrial revolution. In November and December 2019, UNIDO partnered with the organization committee of the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit and the German Agency for International Cooperation to hold two high-level regional conferences on identifying opportunities and utilizing advanced technologies to foster industrialization in East Africa and southern Africa.

31. In collaboration with ECA, UNCTAD provided substantive analysis for the ninth edition of *Next Steps for the African Continental Free Trade Area: Assessing Regional Integration in Africa*. UNCTAD also provided inputs on e-commerce and the integration of digitalization in Africa. The analysis reviewed the opportunities and challenges of e-commerce in Africa, including with regard to persisting digital divides and the role of digitalization in African countries' industrial policies. UNCTAD and ECA jointly implemented a United Nations development account project aimed at capacitating national and regional policymakers and stakeholders to measure and analyse value chains and to design service policies.

32. In partnership with the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the Centre for the Study of African Economies, UNCTAD introduced the productive capacity index in 2019 and set up statistical tools to measure and analyse trade in services performance. This will help the Union member countries to formulate policy. Eight trade officials received training on those tools via e-learning. In 2020, development started on an IT system to compile and disseminate statistics on trade in services.

33. IMF provided capacity development to African countries through technical assistance, training, peer learning and online courses. Through its centres in Gabon, Ghana, Mauritius, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania, IMF helped African countries to develop national and regional industrialization priorities and improve resource mobilization, public financial management, debt management, monetary policy, financial systems, legislative frameworks, and macroeconomic and financial statistics. That will help African countries to develop sustainable and inclusive economic policies, especially in the context of global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic.

34. The Southern African Development Community (SADC), COMESA and the East African Community Tripartite undertook studies to improve industrial statistical capacity in SADC and other regional economic communities, which is essential for measuring and understanding the pace of industrial development and the effectiveness of industrial policy in Africa. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), with the support of AfDB, drafted a regional automotive policy.

E. Special economic zones and industrial parks

35. UNIDO continued to collaborate with various stakeholders to operationalize the Programme for Country Partnership initiative, which deals with interventions related to the development of industrial parks. In Ethiopia, construction on four pilot integrated agro-industrial parks was 80 to 100 per cent complete in January 2020. Over \$600 million was earmarked by various development partners, including AfDB, the European Investment Bank, the Government of Italy and the European Union, to increase the resources of the Government of Ethiopia. In Senegal, UNIDO supported the operationalization of three industrial parks. In parallel, AfDB and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) committed funding to support the development of a number of agricultural growth poles, agropoles. In Morocco, development started on various technical projects with a focus on industrial zones, agro-industry, energy efficiency, the circular economy, the fourth industrial revolution and e-commerce. In Egypt and South Africa, UNIDO has been promoting the transition of industrial parks into eco-industrial parks through funding from the Government of Switzerland under the Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme.

36. Afreximbank is promoting the development of industrial parks and special economic zones in several African countries. In Gabon, support is provided for the development of an integrated special economic zone with a focus on timber processing and furniture. Over 40 timber transformation industrial units were opened and 12,500 new jobs were created. In Côte d'Ivoire, negotiations are under way to establish the pilot Abidjan PK-24 Industrial Park, which will focus on agroprocessing and light manufacturing. In Nigeria, collaboration is ongoing with the Government of Nigeria to create the Lekki Textile Industrial Park and Enyimba Industrial City as part of the "Made in Nigeria for Export" initiative. In Burkina Faso, support is being provided for the construction of an integrated textile and garments park.

37. In December 2019, AfDB provided \$220 million to support the implementation of the Results-Based Programme for Enhancing Regional Competitiveness in Morocco. The programme helps Morocco to implement its regional industrial acceleration plan, including in setting up new industrial poles, attracting private investors and generating new jobs.

38. ECOWAS is promoting the establishment of a cross-border special economic and crop-processing zone in the Seme border area between Benin and Nigeria. A pre-feasibility study has been conducted with the help of UNIDO and the engagement process for the implementation of the project is ongoing. ECOWAS also championed a tripartite cross-border special economic zone between Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali and continued to engage with the respective Governments.

F. Pharmaceutical industries

39. UNIDO is collaborating with the West African Health Organization to improve the pharmaceutical industry in ECOWAS member countries. A regional reference framework and country-specific road map showing the steps to be taken to achieve compliance with good manufacturing practices has been developed and reviewed by member States. Under the West Africa Quality System Programme, draft standards for face masks were developed and considered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and that led to the establishment of an ad hoc task force on face masks under the standard harmonization committee on textiles. A review of standards on alcohol-based hand sanitizers was also conducted and will be handled by the Chemicals Technical Harmonization Committee. As part of a UNIDO project in

Senegal, a prototype of an automatic gel dispenser was developed by a start-up established by young graduates.

40. ITC, jointly with the Department for International Development, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the China-Africa Development Fund, through the Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa (PIGA) project, supported the development of the pharmaceutical industry in Ethiopia and Mozambique by attracting foreign investors. In 2020, a joint venture project worth \$9 million will be implemented in Mozambique and two other projects worth \$30 million will be implemented in Ethiopia. The two projects in Ethiopia will contribute to improving access to medical equipment and supplies.

41. On 26 June 2020, AfDB, through its concessional financing office, the African Development Fund, approved the allocation of \$9.52 million to strengthen responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in East Africa, the Horn of Africa and the Comoros. The grant is part of the \$10 billion allocated to the COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility. Funding will also be used to procure essential medical supplies, including testing kits, and to train health workers. The funds will be used to bolster health systems and disease surveillance, enhance infection prevention and control, and improve regional coordination by the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to contain cross-border transmissions.

G. Renewable energy and energy efficiency

42. UNIDO mobilized \$300 million through the Private Financing Advisory Network to promote clean energy use by African enterprises. A total of 43 African projects received support from the Network, leading to a cumulative reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of 875,000 tons per year. In South Africa, a UNIDO project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported small and medium-sized enterprises to use organic waste energy, with the aim of increasing renewable energy usage by 22.5 million kWh and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 1 million tons in 2021. The Climate Technology Centre and Network, which is hosted by UNIDO, provided eight southern African countries with technical assistance to develop regional energy-efficient appliance and equipment strategies.

43. The United Nations Capital Development Fund partnered with 35 financial and energy service providers to supply clean energy to over 3 million people in Africa. In Ethiopia, it collaborated with UNDP, the Development Bank of Ethiopia and the Government of Ethiopia to operationalize a renewable energy scheme for businesses to guarantee loans of \$1.1 million to 12 renewable energy small and medium-sized enterprises in 2019. In Lesotho, it partnered with UNDP to catalyse investment in renewable energy-based mini-grids and energy centres in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In the Gambia, it partnered with UNDP to finance a 10.5 MW solar power plant project.

44. Under its Low Carbon, Low Emission Clean Energy Technology Transfer programme, funded by the Government of Japan, UNIDO implemented a project in Morocco which demonstrated the techno-economic viability of combining renewable energy generation from existing 1 MW concentrated photovoltaics with energy storage from vanadium flow batteries. In the United Republic of Tanzania, UNIDO supported clean energy interventions, including building the capacity of local cooking-stove manufacturers, promoting the uptake of clean energy and strengthening the policy and regulatory framework. The project is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by over 2.3 million tons in 2022.

45. IAEA helped to enhance the energy planning capacity of African countries. Meetings of national experts were organized to finalize reports on sustainable

electricity supply options for North and East Africa. Those activities, together with a similar exercise previously carried out in West Africa, are the culmination of a comprehensive capacity-building programme, focused on the development of techno-economic analyses for African subregions using IAEA energy system planning tools. Togo was provided with assistance in the development of its electrification master plan and Botswana in the finalization of its integrated resource plan.

46. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is working with the Department for International Development on an initiative to provide clean energy access and to sustainably increase energy capacity in Sierra Leone. The project will provide up to 4 MW of sustainable, low-carbon energy and benefit more than 337,000 residents, as well as local businesses and essential services. The second phase of the project will entail the extension of electricity access to an additional 44 communities. To ensure long-term sustainability, private sector companies, selected through a competitive process, operate the mini-grids under 20-year license agreements. By the end of 2019 the project had leveraged an additional \$7 million in co-investment from the private sector.

H. Environment and climate change

47. In December 2019, UNIDO secured more than \$38 million from GEF. Those funds, along with \$250 million leveraged through co-financing, will support 13 recipient countries in their transformational shift to more sustainable development pathways. Under the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme, support will be provided to develop a functioning ecosystem for clean technology entrepreneurship. More than 1,000 businesses will be targeted with tailored business development and investment support. In Ghana, a \$7 million project has already started and the Global Cleantech Innovation Promotion is promoting the establishment of a circular economy framework for the plastics sector, in close cooperation with the Global Plastic Action Partnership of the World Economic Forum. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, assistance will be focused on supporting the country's efforts to reduce its vulnerability and to enhance its resilience to climate change by promoting innovation, the transfer and the large-scale deployment of adaptation-oriented technologies and services by small and medium-sized enterprises.

48. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) continued to work with UNDP, UNOPS and other partners to support various African countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda), including in the areas of biogas technology, e-waste management, organic agriculture, green manufacturing and eco-labelling under the Switch Africa Green programme. Over 3,000 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises received support under phase 1 of the project, which ended in February 2020. Fourteen grants to promote green business development have been awarded in phase two.

49. In the Gambia, IFAD partnered with the OPEC Fund for International Development and GEF to promote climate-smart investment for the rural poor, an initiative that is expected to improve the lives of people in 40,000 households, 80 per cent of whom are women and 25 per cent of whom are young people or persons with disabilities. In Ethiopia, IFAD and the Government of Ethiopia are supporting sustainable farming methods through the Participatory Small-Scale Irrigation Development Programme, an initiative that is expected to improve income and food security for 108,750 people, including 43,500 women. In Kenya, IFAD collaborated with the Government of Kenya, the Nature Conservancy and the Coca-Cola Company to implement a sustainable financing mechanism for environmental services, the Upper Tana-Nairobi Water Fund, a project that has so far benefited 23,280 farmers.

50. Under the framework of the SwitchMed II programme, funded by the European Union, UNIDO provided support for setting up a scheme to identify opportunities for enhancing post-industrial and pre-consumer waste streams from the textile and garment industries in Morocco and Tunisia. Under the programme, efforts are made to build local capacities to implement safer chemical management practices that can protect consumers, workers and the environment, and help to increase environmental responsibility in those sectors. In collaboration with leading international brands, local industry stakeholders and national Governments, UNIDO is also strengthening local capacity in both countries to facilitate proper classification and the efficient collection, sorting and recycling of post-industrial and pre-consumer textiles, in line with global market specifications.

51. Through joint implementation of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP, ILO and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research continued to provide demand-driven policies and capacity-building support for aligning economic policies with the Sustainable Development Goals and linking them to economic growth, jobs, sustainability and inequality agendas in 20 countries, including Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, and South Africa. In Ghana, a demonstration project on industrial resource efficiency in the steel and palm oil sectors was completed. Through the project, policy recommendations were formulated for the country and specific measures for the demonstration mills to improve industrial energy efficiency. In Burkina Faso, a national green industry strategy was developed and adopted by the Government in July 2019.

I. Information and communications technology

52. UNIDO engaged various global development partners to initiate digital technical cooperation activities across Africa. In Morocco, it facilitated linkages and interactions between the Moroccan Digital Development Agency and various digital multinational companies in order to determine the best operating and business model for the planned establishment of a smart factory in Rabat. In Egypt, collaboration was initiated with Egypt's Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Development Agency to develop joint projects for introducing digital technologies to the majority of small and medium-sized enterprises, with the purpose of increasing their business efficiencies and scope.

53. The International Telecommunication Union supported the African Union Commission in drafting the digital transformation strategy for Africa, which was subsequently endorsed at the thirty-sixth regular session of the Executive Council of the African Union in February 2020. Assistance was also provided for the development of the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa, which is funded by the European Union and specifically addresses aspects of spectrum management for broadband connectivity in Africa. ITU and WHO Regional Office for Africa jointly supported member States in making full and sustainable use of information and communications technology (ICT) in health service delivery. ITU partnered with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the African Union Commission to implement the African Girls Can Code initiative, aimed at promoting the uptake by girls of ICT as a career path. Over 500 girls participated in coding workshops organized under the initiative.

54. The United Nations Capital Development Fund partnered with telecommunications, financial technology (fintech), agricultural technology (agrotech) and agribusiness in Uganda to promote the digitization of maize, coffee, tea, seed oil and dairy value chains. Some 224,938 farmers have adopted mobile money as their first ever formal financial account system. In Ghana, the Better Than Cash Alliance is collaborating with the World Cocoa Foundation to support the

growth of digital payment systems in the cocoa value chain. In 2019, 800 farmers received their main payments through mobile money wallets, although potentially 800,000 beneficiaries could be reached. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations Capital Development Fund rolled out support for digital payment facilities for poor people, to moderate the negative impact of the disease.

55. WHO partnered with FAO, UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the National Agency for the Information Society, the Government of the Niger and the private sector in the Niger to initiate the “smart villages” project to improve rural livelihoods through ICT, including by digitally connecting all of that country’s 15,000 administrative villages with each other. UN-Habitat continued to train young people in Kenya to promote the development of innovative ICT solutions to address urban governance challenges. The project contributed to building the capacity of local governments, using ICT as a tool for promoting good governance, urban planning and the engagement of young people in governance processes.

J. Outreach and global forums

56. In September 2019, on the margins of the General Assembly in New York, UNIDO, in partnership with the African Union Commission, ECA, AfDB, ITU, Afreximbank and the AfroChampions initiative, jointly organized a high-level forum on the Third Decade for Africa (2016–2025) on the theme “Promoting innovation and infrastructure development: a pathway for boosting manufacturing in Africa in the fourth industrial revolution”. Participants at the meeting, including a number of Heads of State, prominent representatives from the African private sector and United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, deliberated on various key factors to boost manufacturing in the fourth industrial revolution.

57. ITU, ECA and the World Urban Campaign jointly organized the fourteenth annual session of the Global Forum on Human Settlements in Addis Ababa in September 2019, with a focus on the theme “Sustainable development of cities and human settlements in the digital era”. The Forum provided African countries with a platform on which to deliberate with participants from around the world on opportunities that the digital revolution brings for the development of sustainable cities and human settlements, innovative policies, strategies and technologies.

58. In August 2019, UNIDO collaborated with the African Union Commission and AfDB to organize a high-level side event on the margins of the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yokohama, Japan. At the event, which was attended by over 200 participants, emphasis was placed on common aspirations for the successful implementation of AfCFTA and the importance of partnerships for economic growth and job creation.

59. The twenty-eighth World Economic Forum was held in Cape Town in September 2019 on the theme “Shaping inclusive growth and shared futures in the fourth industrial revolution”. The forum featured the exploration of ideas on how to scale up the transformation of regional architecture related to institutions, infrastructure, integration, industrialization and innovation. Key outcomes included the launch of the Africa Growth Platform, which will help Africa’s community of start-up enterprises to grow and compete in international markets, and the launch of the Africa E-Commerce Agenda, an eight-step action plan to help the continent to realize the benefits of e-commerce.

60. UNIDO collaborated with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to organize the eighth Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries in Abu Dhabi. Participants explored strategies for industrialization in the least developed countries beyond 2020, taking into account lessons learned from the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, which ends in 2020. One of the main outcomes of the Conference was the ministerial declaration, in which emphasis was placed on the need for the next programme of action for the least developed countries to be developed on the basis of lessons learned.

61. In November 2019, the United Nations Population Fund, together with the Governments of Kenya and Denmark, jointly convened the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development to mark the Fund’s twenty-fifth anniversary. Participants at the Conference, which was attended by over 8,300 delegates from more than 170 countries, underscored the fact that economic development and the Sustainable Development Goals will not be achieved without accelerated investment in women, girls and young people. Governments and their national and international partners committed to ramp up the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference by ending all maternal deaths, meet the need for family planning and stamp out gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030.

62. In February 2020, UN-Habitat organized the World Urban Forum, at which the Capital Investment Platform was launched, with the aim of meeting urban demand for local infrastructure and attracting investors. ICT solutions for urban planning and urban management were presented, including a geographical information system for monitoring various data, including disasters, mobility and the supply of basic services.

63. On 20 November 2019, Africa Industrialization Day on the theme “Positioning African industry to supply the AfCFTA market” was celebrated in various African countries, as well at the headquarters of UNIDO. The celebrations provided participants with a platform to discuss the opportunities stemming from AfCFTA. In Ethiopia, the celebrations were held within the framework of the second Africa Industrialization Week, which was jointly organized by the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission, UNIDO, ITC, African Free Zones Organization and the Korea-Africa Foundation. Various parallel events were held during the week, including the World Export Development Forum, the SheTrades global forum, the annual meeting of the Africa Free Zones Association, the regional value chain development forum, the Africa-Korea business forum and the Pan-African Manufacturers’ Association workshop.

K. Partnerships and resource mobilization

64. In line with its “Industrialize Africa” strategy, AfDB is supporting the development of national industrial bases by providing finance, with a focus on catalytic industrialization projects. In 2019, a total of \$400 million was provided for the Mozambique Liquefied National Gas project. AfDB and IsDB contributed \$26.3 million and \$99.7 million, respectively, to support the \$513.7 million Temane Transmission Project in Mozambique, along with other investors and donors. The project is expected to increase the population’s access to electricity from 27 per cent in 2018 to 100 per cent by 2030. The two banks also approved \$432 million for the National Malaria Elimination Project in Nigeria. In Mauritania, AfDB and IsDB jointly contributed €52.92 million towards an agricultural transformation project,

aimed at increasing smallholder agricultural productivity and commercialization through irrigation and infrastructure development.

65. Afreximbank and the Export-Import Bank of China were partners in the development of the \$1 billion China-Africa Investment and Industrialization Programme, aimed at providing debt financing for industrial projects in Africa. Afreximbank also established the Fund for Export Development in Africa, an equity intervention tool for manufacturing companies and projects in Africa. Afreximbank is also collaborating with ITC to develop the “How to Export” programme to raise awareness and improve trade skills for cross-border traders under AfCFTA. Afreximbank also established the Afreximbank Project Preparation Facility to increase the pipeline of bankable projects in member countries. The Facility supports the public and private sector in bringing well-structured, de-risked and bankable projects to market.

66. Within the framework of the Joint Africa-European Union Strategy, the European Investment Bank provided €1.8 billion to support private sector investment in Africa. Of those funds, €900 million is dedicated to promote the engagement of new corporations, large businesses and start-up companies in manufacturing, digital, agribusiness, technology and financial fields. A commitment of \$15 million was signed in 2019, with a generalist private equity fund primarily targeting growth capital investments in small and medium-sized enterprises and mid-market companies in North Africa. The equity fund’s initial closing reached \$80 million. The fund’s portfolio companies are also anticipated to grow regionally and contribute to strengthening trade between northern and sub-Saharan African countries, while directly creating over 1,000 new jobs.

67. The United Nations Capital Development Fund continued to implement activities to promote access to finance. In 2019, it provided a grant of \$150,000 to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to construct an agricultural aggregation centre in Kigoma. The grant was complemented by a \$40,000 investment from ITC. In Uganda, the United Nations Capital Development Fund provided a partial loan guarantee of \$226,000 to an agricultural poultry processing firm, which resulted in the unlocking of a \$650,000 loan from an impact investment fund. The Common Fund for Commodities extended loans of €970,000 to Côte d’Ivoire to support dry bulk fertilizer blending and packaging; of \$1.5 million to Benin to strengthen the cashew value chain; and of \$2 million to Kenya to strengthen the macadamia, cashew, sesame and avocado value chains.

68. FAO and UNIDO spearheaded Accelerated Agriculture and Agro-industry Development Initiative Plus, a multi-stakeholder programme to develop the palm oil value chain. Under the programme, stakeholders collaborated to design and implement field trials for an oil-palm-based agroforestry system. With the participation of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the United Republic of Tanzania, an interministerial coordination committee for the subsector was successfully set up. FAO partnered with IFAD, FAO, the German Agency for International Cooperation, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, WFP and the World Bank to implement an agricultural financial inclusion project in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Togo.

L. South-South cooperation

69. As part of a four-year technical and institutional capacity-building project to improve the management of the aquaculture and fisheries value chains in Ethiopia, UNIDO, the Russian Federation and Astrakhan State Technical University jointly organized a 10-day study tour for a delegation of government officials from Ethiopia

and representatives from the country's private sector. The tour facilitated knowledge transfer and the sharing of best practices in the fisheries sector among leading Russian technical institutes and sector-relevant enterprises and manufacturers. Ultimately, the aim of the project is to contribute to the establishment of a fishing and aquaculture development centre on Lake Tana, Ethiopia.

70. In November 2019, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the Department of Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission and the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF) jointly organized the eleventh African Private Sector Forum in Madagascar to promote the development of South-South private investment. The Office also collaborated with OIF and UNIDO to organize the Bangui Economic Forum in December 2019, with the aim of supporting the revitalization of industries in African least developed countries. Following training sessions held on the margins of the Forum, 91 young people received certifications in entrepreneurship and 60 officials and non-governmental organization leaders in quick-impact initiatives.

71. Under the IsDB reverse linkage mechanism, which is a South-South cooperation practice, Morocco continued to provide assistance to various sub-Saharan African countries (Chad, Mali and the Niger) to help them harness the power of renewable energy. Two photovoltaic plants with a capacity of 2.43 MW that are to be commissioned in Mali will provide 35,000 people in 24 villages with access to electricity and increase employment opportunities. In January 2020, IsDB partnered with WTO, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation to launch the Reverse Linkage Programme in Guinea, which is focused on the mango and cashew value chains.

III. Cross-cutting issues

A. Integration of women into industrial development

72. UN-Women collaborated with FAO, IFAD and WFP in the implementation of a programme on accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women in Ethiopia, Liberia, the Niger and Rwanda. The aim of the programme is to strengthen food security and nutrition, create income-generating opportunities, improve the income security, leadership and participation of rural women and enhance collaboration with policymakers to advance an enabling policy environment for gender-responsive rural development for approximately 36,500 rural women, 10,398 rural men and, indirectly, 231,538 household members.

73. UNIDO partnered with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation to implement a programme on promoting women empowerment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in seven countries, including Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, through which country-specific action plans were developed and a database of 1,300 women entrepreneurs in manufacturing was created. In several African countries, including South Africa and Senegal, UNIDO, in partnership with UN-Women, continued the implementation of a programme funded by Germany to provide policymakers and practitioners with advice about the establishment and implementation of a policy framework to integrate gender and green industrial policies.

74. ITC is working with women's business associations throughout Africa, representing some 900,000 women, to enhance understanding of the gendered impact of trade and how AfCFTA will affect women-owned businesses, as well as to create opportunities to engage with trade negotiators on substantive issues affecting women-owned businesses. Stakeholders are focusing on recommendations on trade

facilitation and market access, standards, non-tariff barriers, trade in services, ICT and digital trade.

75. In Mali, UN-Women has reached more than 20,000 women working in the shea, onion and potato value chains. It has trained more than 4,000 women in climate-resilient agricultural production and transformation, as well as in value addition, and has established market links between rural producers and buyers through the Buy from Women digital platform, which is used by more than 700 female producers. In Senegal, UN-Women is working with Réseau des Femmes Agricultrices du Nord, a federation of women rice producers comprising over 25,000 members, to improve women's access to land, equip them with seeds, agricultural inputs and energy-efficient technologies, and support access to finance and markets from commercial banks.

B. Youth employment

76. In the Central African Republic, an ILO project on decent jobs for young women and men enhanced the skills of 320 young people in entrepreneurship and business creation. In Zimbabwe, ILO collaborated with the Government of Zimbabwe and AfDB on the construction of two agroprocessing centres as part of the Empowerment for Women and Youth Project. In Ghana, ILO, with support from the Government of Norway, enhanced opportunities for the skills training and certification of stakeholders from the agricultural, construction and tourism sectors.

77. FAO and UNIDO developed the joint programme entitled “Opportunities for youth in Africa: accelerating job creation in agriculture and agribusiness”, which is designed to increase the availability of decent employment and self-employment opportunities in agriculture and agribusiness for young people in rural and peri-urban areas. The third phase of the \$5.3 million FAO programme on integrating a country approach for boosting decent jobs for youth in the agrifood system, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, is being implemented in Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda.

78. UNOPS, with funding from IsDB and in close alignment with the national strategy of Tunisia for a green economy, continued to provide technical support for a green jobs platform in a number of regions in Tunisia. The aim of the project is to facilitate the access of young graduates to the existing green jobs market, anticipate new opportunities for green jobs that will emerge from new investment and help and support young people to start their own businesses. To date, more than 1,000 unemployed young people have been supported during their integration into the labour market and more than 100 green business enterprises have been established.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

79. The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have a long-lasting impact on Africa's socioeconomic and industrial development. If left unchecked, it will inflict a heavy toll on human life and destroy livelihoods, as well as damage public and private businesses. It is therefore imperative to put in place short-, medium- and long-term initiatives to ensure quick but inclusive, resilient and sustainable industrial development recovery.

80. Governments should use the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to redirect Africa's industrialization strategy. Therefore, in line with recommendations by the African Union, the crafting of a regional agenda for industrial revival that takes into account the effects of COVID-19, needs to

become a top priority. The new action plan should build on opportunities to diversify the economy, anticipate changes in the global structure of trade and industry, and support efforts to accelerate regional integration through AfCFTA.

81. COVID-19 has amplified the risks of the world's heavy dependence on a few countries for the global supply chains of key products. African countries should position themselves better to attract manufacturing activities as global manufacturing firms seek to geographically diversify the sources of supply. African countries also need to continue to scale up their infrastructure, improve logistics, invest more in skills development and reduce the cost of doing business.

82. A critical priority area for public health in Africa is access to pharmaceutical products. To mitigate the continent's dependence on imported pharmaceuticals, Africa should accelerate the realization of its Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa, which was pioneered by the African Union Commission in collaboration with various stakeholders, including UNIDO, WHO and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). AfCFTA represents an opportunity to promote the trading of pharmaceutical products and contribute to strengthening African health-care systems in the long term.

83. African countries have the chance to build on the digitalization transformation that is taking root in Africa and adapt to the realities of the changes that have been made urgent by the pandemic. To achieve such a reorientation of their industries, African countries need to mobilize innovations and investments and integrate them into new business models that have a strong focus on women and youth, and that drive growth of the economy's formal and informal sectors. Training, technology exchange and the promotion of investment are important policy measures that can reinforce this process.

84. The disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Africa's food supplies has underscored the fact that food security remains a high priority for the continent and that renewed efforts are needed to boost sustainable food systems. Durable solutions for food security require investment in irrigation, storage, transport and agroprocessing systems to boost production and reduce post-harvest losses and volatility in the supply and price of food.

85. The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of solid partnerships, international cooperation, information-sharing and joint action. The successful control of the challenges without borders is in the interest of the whole world. Multilateralism and international cooperation, including through the United Nations system, are now needed more urgently than ever before.