

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

TO BE DELIBERED AT THE 39TH SESSION OF THE UNIDO PROGRAMME AND
BUDGET COMMITTEE (PBC): 15-17 MAY 2023

**Agenda Item 16: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa
(IDDA III)**

**The Chair, His Excellency Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent
Representative of Pakistan,**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. As I am taking the floor for the first time, I wish to extend my congratulations to you, Chair, on your well-deserved election to steward the 39th Session of the UNIDO Programme and Budget Committee. Equally, my congratulations go to the other members of the Bureau on their election.

2. I additionally seize this opportunity to recognize and thank the outgoing Chair, His Excellency Ambassador Alessandro Cortese, Permanent Representative of Italy, and his Bureau. Their efforts significantly contributed to the success of the 38th Session of the UNIDO PBC.

3. Echoing the sentiments expressed by both the African Group and the Group of 77 and China, Kenya wishes to enhance the deliberations with these additional remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

4. Kenya acknowledges the Report by the Director General on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) as encapsulated in document No. IDB.51/15-PBC.39/15.

5. The adoption of Resolution A/RES/70/293 by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2016, which proclaimed 2016-2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III), launched a landmark period in the pursuit of industrial progression in Africa. UNIDO, in collaboration with various partners, has been spearheading this initiative – with the ultimate objective of giving concrete impetus to the transformation of African countries into locations of competitive industrial production.

6. Kenya is encouraged by the progress made in the implementation of IDDA III. We are pleased to note that, in 2022, more than 250 projects, with a total value of US\$63.3million, excluding interregional and global portfolios, were under implementation in Africa, under the wider framework of IDDA III, including within the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CPs).

7. Indeed, a tangible manifestation of IDDA III is the Kenya Self-Starter Programme for Country Partnership. This initiative, which was signed and launched with UNIDO in September 2021, has commenced, with the Kenya Government taking proactive steps in resource mobilization to ensure its operationalization. We are making progress with the implementation of the Self-Starter PCP anchor project, the Integrated Agro-Industrial Park (IAIP) project in

Nyamira County. Along these lines, we have been able to conduct an Industrial Study Tour on Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks and the key learnings from the tour are being incorporated into the Self-Starter PCP.

8. Beyond the IAIP, the Kenya Government is demonstrating its commitment to inclusivity and economic development by allocating substantial financial resources for the establishment of County Aggregation and Industrial Parks across all its 47 counties. This initiative aims to enhance farmer incomes and ensure that all devolved Counties participate actively in the national industrialization agenda. Our industrialization drive also extends to targeted Agro-Value-Chain development, establishment of Special Economic Zones, and digitization. We invite UNIDO and all development partners, including private sector investors, to join us in actualizing this ambitious industrialization agenda.

9. Based on the lessons gleaned from our experiences, we advocate for UNIDO to expand the PCP and the CP initiatives to other African countries, upon their request, to ensure widespread inclusive and sustainable development across the continent. We also call on UNIDO to redouble its efforts towards resource mobilization for the existing programs.

Mr. Chair,

10. Kenya applauds the collaborative and consultative approach adopted by the Director General in formulating the UNIDO strategy for Africa 2023-2025. This strategy promises to serve as a unifying framework for the Organization's interventions in promoting industrial development across the continent. We are optimistic that this strategy will be finalized and available for deliberation by Ministers during the 20th Session of the General Conference later this year.

11. We continue to encourage UNIDO to endeavor to align the deliverables of IDDA III with those of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) – and additionally stress the important role that a fully established and functional IDDA III Secretariat will play in the full implementation of the IDDA III aspirations, including those related to the AfCFTA.

Mr. Chair,

12. In conclusion, let me reaffirm Kenya's unwavering commitment to the vision of IDDA III. As we come closer to the end of the designated decade, we urge UNIDO to amplify its stewardship role and foster closer collaboration with all stakeholders to support the full implementation of IDDA III. Kenya views IDDA III as a vital complementary component in the realization of the AU Agenda 2063's goals of prioritizing economic growth, industrialization, and employment generation over the next three decades. The fact that the President of Kenya continues to serve as one of the 10 Head-of-State-Champions for IDDA III is a testament to our willingness to continue advocating for this important global agenda.

Thank you, Mr. Chair