

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE 51ST SESSION OF THE UNIDO INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB): 3-6 JULY 2023**

Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2022

Mr. President,

1. We wish to congratulate you, **Excellency Ambassador Magdi Ahmed Mofadal**, on your election as President of the 51st Session of the UNIDO Industrial Development Board (IDB). We equally applaud the members of your Bureau on their respective elections.
2. We express our profound gratitude to the outgoing President of the IDB, **His Excellency Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica**, for his professional, gracious, and exemplary stewardship of the work of the IDB during the 50th Session.
3. Additionally, we wish to express our appreciation to Director General Gerd Muller for his remarks – and take this opportunity to reiterate the Kenya Government's full support for his continued outstanding leadership of the Organization.

Mr. President,

4. Regarding the present agenda item - Agenda Item 3, Kenya aligns itself with the statements delivered by the African Group and the Group of 77 and China. **Recalling our statement during the 39th Session of the UNIDO Programme and Budget Committee (PBC)**, we wish to re-emphasize the following points.
5. Kenya acknowledges the growth in funding for UNIDO technical cooperation services in 2022 - due in large part to enhanced support by the European Union, other Member States, and vital funding partners, **including the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (MLF)**.

The growth in resources provides additional confidence in UNIDO's ability to deliver its mandated services now and in the coming years – and we join other delegations in commending the Director General and the UNIDO Secretariat for their determined efforts which resulted in this progress.

Mr. President,

6. Kenya applauds the Director General for spearheading the implementation of UNIDO's first-ever results-based budget in the year 2022. **We also reiterate our support for the Director General's ongoing reforms at UNIDO** - especially those aimed at improving the Organization's overall effectiveness and results.
7. **In this context, we wish to reiterate our call for additional strengthening of the UNIDO Regional Field Offices – and specifically advocate for reinforcement of the UNIDO Field Office in Kenya.** We believe that boosting the capacity of UNIDO Field Offices will further foster needed improvements in project coordination with national governments and policymakers, and ultimately lead to better outcomes for UNIDO.

Mr. President,

8. In view of the challenging global economic and geopolitical environment, we commend UNIDO's endeavours in the year 2022 that were aimed at revamping manufacturing activity in Africa. **Most notably, we commend the priority deployment to Africa of US\$ 73.1 million in technical cooperation contributions during the year 2022.**

9. Kenya is among the 13 Member States with active PCPs - and is unique in being the only Member State implementing a **UNIDO Self-Starter PCP**. Since its launch in September 2021, we have witnessed steady progress in the implementation of the Nyamira Integrated Agro-Industrial Park project - the anchor project under the Kenya Self-Starter PCP. **However, despite the steady progress, we recognize the necessity for further efforts and additional strategic collaborations – in order to fully achieve the intended objectives of this ambitious project.**

10. **In addition to the Self Starter PCP, we are glad to inform the IDB of the recent launch of the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks Projects in Kenya. These projects form a vital component of our government's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda.** The projects are to be rolled out across all 47 counties in Kenya and each county will focus on a maximum of five agro-products priority value chains - thereby fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development across the entire Country. **The projects also provide a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement, with the Kenya Government taking the lead role and providing private sector and development partners with the opportunity to take part in Kenya's industrialization agenda.** We wish to renew our invitation to UNIDO, development partners, and other stakeholders to explore partnership opportunities with Kenya as we seek to establish the 47 County Aggregation and Industrial Parks.

Finally, Mr. President,

11. **Kenya acknowledges the unique and vital role that UNIDO continues to play in global climate action. We note that, in the year 2022, the thematic focus of UNIDO's funding partners was on the impact of environmentally sustainable industry - which attracted the main share of overall funding with US\$ 108.6 million.** Kenya believes that the focus on climate action is important and in alignment with the most pressing concern of our time. We, therefore, continue to encourage UNIDO to increase its advocacy for the role of industry in global climate action.

12. In the lead-up to the UN Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai, **Kenya and the African Union Commission will convene the 'Africa Climate Summit' from 4th to 6th September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. In recognition of UNIDO's unique positioning in the global climate action discourse, we have formally extended an invitation to the Director General to join us at this Summit and collaborate with us in forging Africa's common positions ahead of COP28.** We look forward to UNIDO's presence and valuable contributions at this important African Summit.

Mr. President

13. I wish to conclude my statement by restating Kenya's formal acknowledgement of the Annual Report of the Director General for 2022, as detailed in document IDB.51/2 – PBC.39/2.

Thank you, Mr. President.