

African Group Statement delivered at the
38th session of Industrial Development
Board of UNIDO
by Mr Hilaire SOULAMA Chargé d'Affaires on
behalf of H.E. Dr. Salifou Diallo,
Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso,
24 - 26 November 2010

Mr. President,

On behalf of the African Group, I wish to express our pleasure to see you again preside over the 38th session of the Industrial Development Board of UNIDO. I would also like to congratulate the other members of the bureau on their re-election. The Group is confident that with your experience and skills our work at this session will be successful.

The African Group would also like to thank the Director-General of UNIDO, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, for his opening address and wishes to extend its appreciation to the Secretariat for the arrangement of the meeting.

The Group associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China by the Permanent Representative of Algeria, Her Excellency Ambassador Taous Feroukhi.

The African Group will like to use this occasion to commiserate with the people of Indonesia due to natural disasters, which resulted in loss of lives and destruction of infrastructures and properties.

The Group will comment on Agenda items 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in due course.

Item 2: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

Mr. President,

The African Group recalls its active participation in the work of the PBC at its twenty-six session, during which it supported the decisions adopted and contained in document IDB.38/2.

The Group wishes to reiterate its views under this Agenda item as follows:

Item 2a: Report of the External Auditor, Financial performance report and programme performance report for the biennium 2008 – 2009.

1. The African Group takes note of the Report of the External Auditor on the Accounts of the Organization for the Period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2009 as contained in document IDB.38/3.
2. Once again, the Group expresses its thanks to Dr. Tanwir Ali Agha, External Auditor for the work done and commends the Secretariat for the External Auditor's positive assurance about the financial records of UNIDO. The Group encourages UNIDO to continue implementing recommendations of the External Auditor and reaffirms its hope that these concerns raised in the Report will be dealt with accordingly.

Item 2b: Financial Situation of UNIDO.

1. The African Group takes note of document IDB.38/4 on the financial situation of UNIDO.
2. The Group notes with satisfaction the continued growth in UNIDO's technical cooperation delivery and commends UNIDO for the efforts done.
3. The Group still recognizes the considerable efforts made by all those Member States that have honored their commitments and obligations as stipulated in their respective payments plans.
4. However, the Group has noted with concern the increase of suspended voting rights of some Member States. The Group urges those Member States and former members that have not paid their assessed contributions to do so without delay. The group requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts for collecting all outstanding amounts.

Item 2c : Unutilized Balances of Appropriations: Programme for Change and Organizational Renewal (Change Management Initiative) and Technical Cooperation Activities.

1. The African group takes note of the information provided in document IDB.38/9/Add.1 and the briefings on 17 and 19 November, 2010. The group appreciates the progress made in the implementation of the General Conference Decision GC.13/12. The group urges the Secretariat that in future these important briefings should take place early to give the opportunity to Member States to consult before the session.

2. The Group takes note of the progress of the implementation of the Enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. The group encourages the Secretariat to take due consideration of the expertise from developing countries in the process of selection of service providers for the implementation of programmes in UNIDO.

Item 2e: Mobilization of Financial Resources.

1. The African Group takes note of document IDB.38/8 regarding the progress made on mobilizing financial resources.

2. The Group would like to convey its satisfaction with the significant progress made in 2009 in respect of the overall funding situation for the programmes and projects of UNIDO. In particular, the Group commends the secretariat for its efforts in mobilizing extra budgetary funds for UNIDO's Technical cooperation activities. The Group would like also to highlight the positive impact of such funding in addressing the Millennium Development Goal specially in reducing poverty through developing medium, small and micro enterprises.

3. In view of the great challenges facing industrial development in the African continent, the Group encourages donors to increase their voluntary contributions to UNIDO. The Group stresses that the mobilization of extra budgetary funding for the delivery of UNIDO's services in the three thematic priorities of its mandate is of utmost importance.

Thank you Mr President.

Item: 4 (b) Regional Programme for Africa

Mr President,

1. The African Group welcomes UNIDO's activities in Africa as described in the progress report IDB.38/12 which seek to address the three thematic priorities, trade capacity building, poverty reduction through productive activities and energy and environment.

2. The Group takes note of the launch in 2008 of the regional programme to promote foreign and domestic investment, an initiative designed to bridge the information gap pertaining to investment promotion and looks forward to the outcome of the Fourth African Investor Survey. The Group encourages UNIDO to ensure that the project is extended to other African countries from the initially targeted twenty countries.

3. Further, the Group welcomes the implementation of the "Action Plan for the accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) aimed at mobilizing both financial and non-financial resources to increase Africa's competitiveness with the rest of the world. The Group also encourages UNIDO to assist African countries, guided by the pragmatic objectives and priorities identified in the MTPF 2010-2013, to strengthen their productive capacities, remove technical barriers to trade as well as improving productivity and competitiveness.

4. With regards to enhancing value addition activities in the manufacturing sector as well as the development of local production capacities, while taking note of UNIDO's commendable efforts in this area, the Group would like to encourage the Organization to establish a follow-up mechanism which will guarantee sustainability of the various programmes and projects. The Group urges UNIDO to assist African countries access the relevant technologies in order to develop the value addition chain.

5. The Group appreciates UNIDO's continued efforts in the development of programmes to address youth unemployment, agro processing and small and medium enterprises development. The Groups notes with appreciation that over 5000 youths were trained in entrepreneurial skills under the Mano River Union Youth Programme. The enhancement of the capacities of the Small and Medium Enterprises under the framework of the Delivery as One Initiative is also valued. The Group urges UNIDO to extend these developmental initiatives to other regions on the Continent.

6. The Group welcomes the outcomes of the High Level Conference on Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa held in Abuja in March 2010. The Group is encouraged by the endorsement of the African Agribusiness and Agro-Industries Development Initiative (3ADI) by the High Level Conference. Due to the numerous challenges that hamper progress in the agribusiness industry in African countries, the Group urges UNIDO in partnership with FAO and IFAD to intensify its efforts in that regard.

7. In view of the challenges that Africa continues to face in their quest to develop alternative sources of energy whilst ensuring sustainable environmental development, the Group is encouraged by UNIDO's projects on renewable and cleaner energy and environmental protection in West Africa. The Group welcomes the establishment with UNIDO's assistance, of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Cape Verde. The Group further encourages UNIDO to assist in the establishment of similar energy initiatives to other regions in Africa.

8. Finally, the African Group looks forward to the successful outcome of the 19th Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI) to be held in Algiers in March 2011. In this regard, the African Group urges UNIDO to continue to support (CAMI) to make a more effective Ministerial coordinating mechanism among African Countries in the field of Industrialisation.

Thank you Mr. President.

Item 6: Decentralisation of UNIDO field representation.

Mr President,

1. The African Group notes the significant progress of decentralisation activities in UNIDO as presented in the report by the Director General; on UNIDO field representation (~~IDB.38/6-PBC.26/6~~). It is observed that field offices were established in 2010 in Bangladesh and Brazil and new offices are envisaged for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central America.

2. The Group welcomes the envisaged office in the Democratic Republic of Congo and appreciates that consideration is being given to the possibility of that office eventually covering the immediate sub region.

3. The Group believes that enhanced visibility in the field is more critical to a more effective programmatic delivery. The Group hopes that planned criteria for determining any new field presence does not disadvantaged or limit the potential decentralization process.

Thank you Mr President.

Item 7: UNIDO contributions to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President,

1. The African Group takes note of the documents IDB.38/14 and IDB.38/14/Add.1 entitled "UNIDO contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals".

2. The Group appreciates UNIDO's contribution to the achievement of the MDGs, in particular Goals 1, 3, 7 and 8. The Group welcomes the Organization's ongoing efforts to promote the MDGs as the overarching framework for its activities and is of the view that a competitive and environmentally sustainable industry is vital in order to accelerate economic growth and reduce poverty.

3. The Group further welcomes the United Nations High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG Summit), entitled **"Keeping the Promise: United to achieve the Millennium Development Goals"**, which took place in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, on the sidelines of the General Assembly.

4. The Group notes with satisfaction the active role of UNIDO in the deliberations of the Summit, reflected in its outcome document which reaffirms the commitments by world leaders to the MDGs and establishes a concrete action agenda for achieving the Goals by 2015 and outlines specific steps to be taken by all stakeholders to accelerate progress on each of the eight Goals.

5. The Group is pleased to note that the United Nations has been given a strong mandate to continue supporting governments, especially the LDCs in achieving the MDGs. In this connection, the Group hopes that UNIDO's further efforts in accelerating progress towards the MDGs through the promotion of sustainable industrial development, in consultation with the Members States, will be focused on :

- promoting agricultural production, productivity and sustainability, through, inter alia, developing strong agricultural value chains, and improving farmers' access to market;
- strengthening the trade capacity and international competitiveness of developing countries;
- promoting adequate and predictable financial and high-quality technical support, as well as the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable technology and the transfer of such technologies;
- expanding access to affordable energy, increasing energy efficiency and ensuring the sustainability of energy sources and use;
- addressing the risks and the challenges posed by the climate change, especially to developing countries.

6. The Group African Group would like to call for more voluntary contributions, including supports from private sector, to assist UNIDO expand its activities in the framework of the commitments embodied in the outcome document of the 2010 MDG Summit. Therefore, the Group encourages UNIDO to continue its ongoing efforts towards inter-agency mechanisms and cooperation.

Thank you Mr President.

Item 8: UNIDO support in fostering local pharmaceutical industry in developing countries, with special regard to essential health products.

Mr President,

1. The African Group would like to express its support and gratitude to UNIDO for its project aimed at fostering support for local pharmaceutical industries in developing countries.

2. The Group believes that pharmaceutical industries in developing countries should play a significant role in easing access to affordable drugs. In this regard, UNIDO can contribute towards assisting the countries to bring together stakeholders, funding partners, expertise and policy formulation in order to develop and enhance local production.

Thank you Mr President.

Item 9: UNIDO activities in the field of energy and environment.

Mr. President,

1. The African Group takes note of the report by the Director-General on the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development organization in the field of energy and environment as contained in document IDB. 38/16.

2. The Group considered the report as well as the briefing on energy by the Secretariat and encourages UNIDO to continue its efforts to ensure the achievement of industrial energy efficiency and access to energy for development.

Thank you Mr President.

Item 10: Matters related to Intergovernmental, non-governmental, and other organizations.

Mr President,

1. The African Group takes note of document IDB.38/18 reviewing the status and extent of cooperation of Intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations with UNIDO.

2. The African Group welcomes efforts by the Secretariat to streamline the status of the NGO's that is the active and non-active ones and urges the Board to recommend to the next General Conference of UNIDO to take appropriate measures.

Thank you Mr. President.