

African Group Statement

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by H.E. Ambassador Khaled Shamaa

Permanent Representative of Egypt

Mr. President, H.E. Ambassador Antonio García – Revilla, Permanent Representative of Peru, on behalf of the African Group, it gives me great pleasure to see you presiding over the 41st session of the Industrial Development Board. I would also like to congratulate the members of the Bureau on their election, and assure you of the utmost cooperation from the African Group during the course of work of the Board.

The Group would like to recognize the dedication and efforts exerted by H.E. Ambassador Balazs Csuday, Permanent Representative of Hungary and President of the 40th session of the Industrial Development Board, during his term..

The group takes this opportunity to thank Director General Kandeh Yumkella for his statement, and his efforts towards the Unido Organization over the past 17 years, 7 of which he has provided able leadership to the Organization.

Looking back at the tenure of Dr. Yumkella, the Group highly commends him for his dedication towards promoting industrial development in developing countries, and especially in African countries where it is inevitably needed. The Group especially appreciates the Director General's innovative initiatives to enter into partnerships, mobilize funding and engage in multilateral fora with the aim of reducing poverty, building capacities, and providing sustainable energy, to name just a few of his achievements. The Group wishes Dr. Yumkella success in all his future endeavours.

The Group welcomes the outcome of the 20th session of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held in Nairobi, Kenya from 10-14th June 2013 under the theme "Accelerating Industrialization for Africa within the post 2015 Development Agenda". The African Ministers of Industry called for the elaboration of development goals on structural transformation within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, that are supported by measurable

targets and indicators. The Group believes that UNIDO will be instrumental in facilitating Africa's quest for sustainable industrial development and job creation, through capacity building, fostering south-south cooperation and transfer of technology, and private sector development, with special focus on SME's.

The Group associates itself with the statement delivered by the Chair of the Group of 77 and China.

The Group would like to present its views on the following agenda items: 3,5,6,7,8 and 13.

Item 3: Annual Report 2012 :

1. The African Group takes note of the document IDB.41/2 on the annual report of the DG for 2012 on the activities of the organization. The Group encourages UNIDO to continue its efforts towards promoting industrial activities in developing countries, with the aim of reducing poverty.
2. The Group welcomes the increase in approval rate of project proposals assessed by the Programme Approval and Monitoring Committee to 91% of submitted proposals in 2012, which reflects an increase in the quality of submitted proposals.
3. The Group notes with satisfaction that the biggest share of submitted projects was in the African region. The Group calls for a more balanced approach among all thematic areas of activities of the organization.
4. The Group continues to urge the organization to further develop its activities that address the specific needs on the African states, especially the implementation of the Agro-industries Development Initiative (3ADI), cooperation in development of the pharmaceutical industries in African countries, cluster development, and policy advice.

Thank you Mr. President

Item 5: Programme and Budgets, 2014 – 2015:

Mr. President,

5. The African Group takes note of document IDB.41/25 entitled Report of the Programme and Budget Committee on the work of its 29th session.
6. The Group commends the efforts of the Secretariat, and the spirit of compromise expressed by all Member States before and during the work

of the Program and Budget Committee, which enabled the adoption of the 2014-2015 Budgets.

7. The Group encourages the Secretariat to improve the efficiency of using available resources, and to increase fund mobilization, including through support from the private sector, in order to continue to expand its activities in technical cooperation in all thematic priorities.
8. The Group also encourages Member States to continue providing UNIDO with sufficient, stable and predictable resources needed to fulfill its mandate, by paying their assessed contributions and any outstanding dues. The Group also hopes that an effective solution will be reached with regard to amounts owed by former Member States.

Thank you Mr. President.

Item 6: Medium-term Programme Framework:

Mr President

1. The Group takes note of the document IDB.41/8 entitled Proposal by the Director General regarding the medium-term programme framework. The Group supports the recommendation contained in the report that "it is preferable that the expected outcome of the deliberations of the informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO, be used to inform the Organization's programmatic frameworks" .
2. For the reasons given in the proposal, namely of ensuring that the proposed programme and budgets, 2014-2015, exists within a broader strategic framework, and for providing for full consideration of the effects of both the QCPR and of the expected outcome of the working group, The African Group supports that proposal that the current medium-term programme framework 2010-2013 be extended to encompass the biennium 2014-2015.

Item 7: Informal working group on the future, including programmes and resources of UNIDO:

1. The African Group expresses its appreciation for the work of the Co-chairs of the Informal Working Group on the future of UNIDO, including programmes and resources, H.E. Mrs. Ana Teresa DENGGO, Ambassador

and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica and Counselor Alberto GROOF, from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland.

2. The Group commends the efforts and determination expressed by Member States in their contributions within the framework of the Informal Working group. The Group affirms that all the exercises undertaken over the past year and half in this framework have been very beneficial.
3. The Group recalls Decision IDB.39/Dec. 7, establishing the IWG, which has stated that the Informal Working Group is to "provide guidance on the future, including programmes and resources, of UNIDO".
4. The Group thus views that this "Strategic Guidance Document", be endorsed by the General Conference for future guidance, formulation and implementation of the medium-term programme frameworks, the programmes and budgets and other activities of UNIDO.

Item 8: UNIDO activities in Environment and Energy:

Mr President,

1. The African Group takes note of the documents IDB.41/18 and IDB.41/17 related to UNIDO's activities in the fields of environment and energy.
2. The Group recognizes the important role of UNIDO in the promotion and support of best available industrial energy efficiency policies, practices and technologies, as well as its advisory role in the formulation of national energy policies.
3. The Group welcomes the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, on the sidelines of the Vienna Energy Forum in May 2013, between UNIDO and the East African Community on establishing the East African Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EACREE. The new center will complement the ongoing cooperation between UNIDO and ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, and is planned to be followed by a similar center in cooperation with the Southern African Development Community SADC.
4. The Group notes with appreciation the ongoing technical cooperation projects aiming at promoting the environmentally sound management of

e-waste and life cycle approaches in developing countries, including members of the Group.

5. (IDB 40th session language: The Group further notes with appreciation UNIDO's efforts in cooperating with relevant partners in the area of environment and energy. In this regard, the Group welcomes UNIDO's continued partnerships with the Montreal Protocol and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which benefit a significant number of African States)

Item 13: 15th Session of the General Conference:

9. The African Group appreciates the generous offer made by the Government of Peru to host the fifteenth session of the General Conference in Lima 2-6 December 2013.
10. The African Group looks forward to working with other member states in the formulation of the Lima Conference declaration, that will help reiterate our mutual support for UNIDO, and present guidance to its efforts in the coming years.