

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HON. EKWOW SPIO-  
GARBRAH, MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY,  
GHANA AT THE 42<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND THE SPECIAL SESSION  
OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
ORGANISATION (UNIDO) IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA,  
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Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, allow me to join other delegates in congratulating the Chairman and the other members of the bureau for their election into office. It is an honour for me, for the first time, to lead Ghana's delegation to a UNIDO meeting. Ghana is confident that, under the leadership of the Chairman and the new bureau, this meeting will be successful. You can count on the full

support and cooperation of Ghana towards that end.

2. As a member of UNIDO for over four decades, Ghana appreciates its long partnership with UNIDO and the significant contributions UNIDO has made towards Ghana's efforts in achieving sustainable industrial development.

3. Ghana recognizes UNIDO's services as a specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

4. Ghana endorses the new mandate adopted at the last UNIDO GENERAL CONFERENCE held in Lima, Peru, in December 2013, where the member states of UNIDO directed the organization to focus its activities towards

“inclusive and sustainable industrial development.”

5. UNIDO’s current thematic priorities---

- Poverty reduction through productive activities
- Trade capacity-building
- Energy and environment

are essential pillars for Ghana’s industrialization and are in line with the industrial transformation agenda of Ghana as enshrined in our industrial policy.

6. In that connection, Ghana will continue to welcome partnership with UNIOO in order to benefit from the organization’s expertise in the fields of Agri-business and Agro-industries; value addition to Solid Minerals Industries; the Petrochemical Industry; and the Services

Industry, all being sectors in which the country has attracted, and has the potential to attract, even more foreign direct investment.

7. Ghana would like to strengthen its collaboration with UNIDO in several sectors to promote the “Made-in-Ghana” policies of the country, including in areas such as:

- Improving value chains in the agro and food processing industry;
- Technical assistance to build model food processing centre in Ghana;
- Value addition to coconut fibre and related by- products;
- Training in implementing renewable energy technologies for decentralized power generation to support manufacturing enterprises;

- Manufacture of briquettes from agro residues, such as bagasse (sugarcane waste) to substitute wood charcoal;
- The manufacture of energy efficient stoves,
- Local manufacture of LED lamps to substitute kerosene lamps,

8. We recall, with appreciation, the visit to Ghana earlier this year by the Director General, Mr. Li Yong, during which the importance of inclusive and sustainable industrial development in realizing economic growth and employment, was highlighted at a meeting with H.E. President John Dramani Mahama. In that meeting, the need for multilateral partnerships, such as South-South cooperation in fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development, was equally emphasized. We further recall the DG's commendation of the Government for its ambition to implement transformational policies,

and his expectation that Ghana would develop policies and strategies that would safeguard the environment and enhance green growth in the country.

9. Permit me now, distinguished colleagues, to assure UNIDO of our continued collaboration in the implementation of on-going projects in Ghana to mutually satisfactory conclusions.

10. Given the importance of UNIDO to developing countries in general, Ghana is committed to the successful outcome of the discussions of this session of the IDB and on the future of UNIDO.

11. To facilitate the integration of developing countries into the global economy and to help reduce the shocks of economic crisis, UNIDO is further urged to continue to enhance its support to countries in the implementation of projects

aimed at reducing poverty and improving the living standards of the rural poor.

12. The issues for discussions at this session are crucial for the developing countries and are expected to stimulate active and constructive debate on how countries can address current development challenges and work towards the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development.

13. Let me conclude by congratulating Mr. Li Yong for his successful tenure of office as the Director-General of UNIDO and the commendable work he has done since his assumption of duty.

14. While thanking you all for your most kind attention, I look forward to a constructive and fruitful discussions and a successful conclusion of this session.