

**Statement of Namibia delegation at the 42nd Session of the
Industrial Development Board (IDB) of the United Nations
Organization for Industrial Development (UNIDO)
25-27 November 2014**

**To be delivered by H.E. Mr. Simon Madjumo Maruta,
Ambassador/Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Namibia**

Mr. President,

1. At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the 42nd session of UNIDO's Industrial Development Board (IDB). I also extend congratulations to the other members of the Bureau on their election. I am convinced that with your leadership skills, the deliberations at this session will be fruitful. I assure you of my delegation full support.
2. I take this opportunity to thank H.E. Ambassador ALIYAR LEBBE ABDUL AZEEZ of Sri Lanka, and the outgoing bureau for the excellent work during the last session of the IDB. Namibia further wishes to express satisfaction in the manner in which the Director-General, Mr. LI Yong, has conducted his work since his appointment as the DG of UNIDO. In addition, we would also like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent work in preparing for this session.
3. With regards to UNIDO's 2013 Annual Report, Namibia takes note with appreciation the various activities and programmes implemented by the organization during the year under review. Namibia encourages UNIDO to continue its efforts to strengthen the public-private partnerships in Member countries with an emphasis on re-enforcing small and medium enterprises as they form the backbone of most developing countries' economies.

4. The Lima Declaration of 2013 that was adopted at the 15th UNIDO General Conference in Peru reaffirmed the relevance of UNIDO and strengthened its work and its contribution towards the industrialization of developing countries.

5. My government welcomes UNIDO's assistance in the implementation of Namibia's Industrial Policy. Namibia attaches great importance to industrialization as evidenced by both Namibia Development Plan Four (NDP4) 2012/13/ to 2016/17, as well as the Namibian National Vision 2030. Both documents give the highest priority to the industrial development of the country.

6. Ultimately, industrial development is recognised as a shared responsibility between the private sector and the Government. The Namibian National Policy, therefore, advocates for a smart partnership in Namibia's quest for industrialization, including promoting public-private partnerships (PPPs).

7. Due to the small population size and the need to benefit from economies of scale, the country's economic policy will be geared towards openness. This will ensure market access for domestically produce products and services. My government is aware that opening the economy too much or too quickly might come with additional regulation and control, which may , in turn, result in undesirable investment and unintended consequences that may thwart and negate local industrialisation efforts and initiatives. In addition, Namibia industrial policy advocates for the protection of infant industries where feasible as for the protection of strategic industries.

8. Namibia's Industrial Policy emphasizes the importance of commodity-based industrialization and increased value addition to its natural resources. Namibia regards manufacturing as key to the country's development and growth of its economy and this has been recognized through its designation as one of the four priority sectors

in NDP 4 and the overarching long-term Vision 2030. Value addition is also a critical factor for Namibia as it creates opportunities for decent jobs for the youth.

9. Namibia recognizes the importance of UNIDO as a specialized agency in the promotion of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) which combines environmental, technological and economic dimensions. UNIDO has a major role in reducing poverty through its programmes. In our view, UNIDO is well placed to play a critical role in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

10. In conclusion, we wish to welcome the UNIDO Forums on Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) organized this year in June and November and acknowledge the significant contribution they made in building effective synergies with relevant partners and critical stakeholders.

Thank you, Mr. President