

**AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT AT THE 44TH SESSION OF UNIDO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
BOARD (IDB), 22-24 NOVEMBER, 2016
TO BE DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR GHAZI JOMAA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
TUNISIA ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**

Madam PRESIDENT,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the African Group.

1. The African Group is pleased to see you, Ambassador Maria Zeneida Angara Collinson, Permanent Representative of the Philippines, presiding over the 44th Session of UNIDO's Industrial Development Board and would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Board for your election. The Group is confident that under your leadership we will have a successful session and assures you of its full cooperation and support in fulfilling your mandate. The Group would also like to thank his Excellency Ambassador SONG Young-wan and all the members of the 43rd Board session for all their efforts.
2. The African Group further expresses its appreciation to the Director General of UNIDO, Mr. Li Yong, for his dedication and sterling work. The Group would also like to extend its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing documents for this Session and for making the necessary arrangements for the organization of this session.
3. The Group aligns itself with the Statement delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (G77 and China) by the distinguished Ambassador Simon Madjumo MARUTA, Permanent Representative of Namibia.

Madam PRESIDENT,

4. The 44th session of the IDB coincides with the 50th anniversary of UNIDO. It is not only an occasion to celebrate the achievements of UNIDO, but also an opportunity to reflect over how this organization has been working, for half a century, to ensure the promotion of industrial development. In this context, we, present here, have the responsibility to make this session of the IDB a successful one and complement what has been achieved during the last 50 years of the Organization.
5. The 44th session of the IDB was preceded by the PBC on June 2016, where most of the critical issues, including challenges to UNIDO were exhaustively discussed. The African Group is happy to note that after frank, objective and protracted debates, the PBC was successfully concluded on a consensual spirit, thereby setting the tune for the 44th IDB session. The African Group therefore has no doubt the IDB will also be conducted in a spirit of consensus. The African Group would like to assure you Mr. President our cooperation and

support in the cause of our discussion. The Group will make further interventions on each agenda item as we continue with our work.
