

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



**Statement
by
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**at the
Opening Session of the Experts Segment
Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the
Sustainable Development Goals
Addis Ababa
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Thank you, Mr. Moderator,
Mr. Ato Admasu Nebebe, Director of UN Agencies and Regional Economic Cooperation
Directorate, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to represent the Director General of the United Nations Industrial
Development Organization, Mr. LI Yong, and to convey to you his warm regards as you
gather here to consider the important subject of defining an African common position
towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is my pleasure to inform you that in the short time since he assumed office in June, Mr.
LI Yong has reaffirmed his commitment to the historically strong partnership of UNIDO
with Africa. In one of his first missions abroad, he visited Addis Ababa earlier this
month and had fruitful meetings the Chair and Deputy Chair of the African Union, as
well as several AU Commissioners and the Executive Secretary of the Economic
Commission for Africa.

Since assuming office, Mr LI Yong has formulated a new vision for our Organization
based on the concept of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. This concept
will form the basis of a Declaration that the Member States of UNIDO are planning to
adopt at our forthcoming General Conference next December in Lima, Peru.

The Director General sees this approach as an effective means to ensure that industrial
development continues to play its pre-eminent role as the key driver of economic
diversification and transformative economic and social change, and as the sector that
produces the economic wealth to meet the social and human welfare objectives of
development.

It may be recalled in this connection that industrial development has historically been the
source of wealth creation, and thereby of sustained poverty reduction. This is as true of
the industrialized countries of the North as it is of the dragons and tigers of East and
Southeast Asia, and more recently of the BRICS. We strongly believe that the time has
now come for African countries to join the ranks of these countries.

By focusing on the need for an inclusive and sustainable approach to industrial
development, we are saying that we need to ensure that everyone shares in the prosperity
so generated, and that it should take place within the framework of energy efficiency,
clean production, reduction of waste and pollution, and an efficient and effective use of
natural resources.

In implementing this approach, the Director General places great emphasis on close cooperation with all relevant development partners, including multilateral and bilateral development agencies, the international financial institutions, civil society and the private sector. He has shared this vision widely, inter alia with the United Nations Secretary General, executive heads of other United Nations agencies, ministers and ambassadors, and senior representatives of the corporate sector. He has invariably received a positive response.

We are pleased to note that this concept of inclusive and sustainable industrial development is closely aligned to the priorities of the African Union and also closely reflects the views of the Economic Commission of Africa, as expressed, inter alia, in its Economic Report on Africa 2013.

We therefore strongly believe that this concept should find its way into the framework of the SDGs, and would welcome the support of the African Union and the countries of Africa in promoting this objective. In this connection, we would greatly appreciate its inclusion in the African common position on the SDGs.

At the same time, I would like to assure you that we stand ready to continue to support you in your endeavours to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrial development for the benefit of the people of Africa.