



Africa Industrialization Day 2018

Opening Speech

"Promoting Regional Value Chains in Africa: A Pathway for Accelerating Africa's Structural Transformation, Industrialization and Pharmaceutical Production"

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Vienna, Austria

Speech by:

LI Yong

Director General

United Nations Industrial Development Organization



Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you today on behalf of our Director General, Mr. LI Yong. I am pleased that we are also joined by Mr. Yury Fedotov, Director-General, United Nations Office at Vienna; H.E. Ambassador Vivian Okeke (Nigeria), Chairperson of the African Group in Vienna and distinguished panelists for today's celebration of the Africa Industrialization Day.

Since its adoption through Resolution 70/293 on 25 July 2016, the Third Industrial Decade for Africa (IDDA III) has been guiding the efforts of the international community and its African partners towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Indeed, the stated overarching developmental Goal of the IDDA III Road Map is to anchor Africa firmly on this path. The achievement of this vision requires the steady promotion of African internal engines of growth, building on the continent's wealth and natural resources. Part of a global initiative, it compliments other key development blueprints, most notably the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. The critical role of industrialization for emerging economies, in particular through SDG9- *'Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation'* being the key highlight.

Other initiatives, including the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA), the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA), the SME Strategy, the Boosting Intra-African Trade and the African Continental



Free Trade Area are also part of this promising momentum that will see the rise of a unique integrated market with more than 1 billion people in 54 countries.

This year's AID theme: *"Promoting Regional Value Chains in Africa: A Pathway to accelerate Africa's structural transformation, industrialization and pharmaceutical production"* emphasizes SDG9 - *'build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation'* - and highlights the broader impact of industrialisation, notably through contributing to SDG target 3.8 on *'access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable medicines and vaccines for all'*. The pharmaceutical sector has been included as a priority in IDDA III and supporting Local Pharmaceutical Production has been recognized as a unique Pathway that contributes to both improved health and the broader industrialisation agenda, with direct impact on inclusive and sustainable development (ISID).

The development of regional values chains in Africa, by increasing local manufacturing capacity, constitutes an invaluable mean to improve local access to medicines, bringing regional benefits toand representing better value to deliver long term sustainability for the continent.. Regional cooperation on trade and regional harmonization -especially the registration and regulation of medicines- are and will be crucial drivers in the development of a robust pharmaceutical industry in Africa that will respond to international quality standards.

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UNIDO, through its specific mandate, wide expertise and continued commitment in providing technical cooperation to African governments on industrial development issues has been contributing towards the advancement of the global debate on Africa's major developmental challenges. Since 2006, it has provided extensive advisory services to advance pharmaceutical manufacturing in developing countries with a broad range of public and private sector partners. UNIDO actions and policies on local pharmaceutical production aim to help vulnerable populations, especially those in remote rural areas, to access quality medicines, contributing to *"leaving no one behind, and reaching the furthest behind first"*, the overarching principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As we are discussing the industrialization drive in Africa today, through the development of Regional Value Chains in the continent, it is imperative to highlight the opportunities and challenges associated with the specific development of the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry on the continent. Beyond the promotion of these regional value chains, we need to attract additional resources to enable investment in the industry and to scale up activities to deliver the requisite transformational change. UNIDO will support Africa and its Member States to address critical issues such as harmonising local and regional regulations, integrating markets and creating conducive business environments that attract much needed investment for the sector.

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The celebration of the Africa's industrialization Day provides an opportunity to highlight the pan-African industrialization agenda, acknowledging the important link between industrialization and development.

This year's focus on the continent's pharmaceutical manufacturing industry emphasizes the broad impact that industrial development can have particularly through developing stronger partnerships and driving investment in the continent. These will be key to progress towards a sustainably enriched and more prosperous Africa.

I wish you all an excellent celebration of the 2018 Africa Industrialization Day.

Thank you.