



AID
AFRICA
INDUSTRIALISATION
DAY

**JOINT STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE
2024 AFRICA INDUSTRIALIZATION DAY**

20 NOVEMBER 2024

1. On the occasion of Africa Industrialization Day, we, the African Union Commission (AUC), alongside the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), reaffirmed our commitment to advancing Africa's industrialization and economic diversification in line with Agenda 2063: *"The Africa We Want"*. This year we are once again given an opportunity to reflect on the achievements made and the challenges that impinge on the industrialization of the continent.
2. We acknowledge that Industrialization remains at the linchpin of Africa's development agenda 2063, vital to addressing socio-economic challenges including: poverty, unemployment, and inequality. The African Union's commitment to sustainable and inclusive industrialization is outlined in key frameworks such as the **Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA)** and the **Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III)**. These frameworks, alongside the operationalization of the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**, are key to stimulating industrial value addition, enhanced productivity, regional value chains development, job creation, and the transition to a green and sustainable economy.
3. We further acknowledge the global challenges, Africa's resilience, and the global industrial landscape, which is increasingly shaped by environmental challenges, supply chain disruptions, and the economic consequences of geopolitical conflicts in Europe and Middle East. These events underscore the necessity for Africa to build resilient industries capable of navigating such external shocks. At the same time, Africa must seize opportunities to diversify its industrial base, leveraging its natural resource endowment, youthful population, innovation and rising middle class. It must also utilize the emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, Blockchain, robotics, 3D Printing to build industries that are beneficial to current and future generations and be fully part of the 4th industrial revolution.
4. We note that Africa's young and growing population, coupled with the continent's abundant natural resources and rising middle class, presents an unprecedented opportunity for industrialization. Additionally, we highlight the importance of creating conducive environments for investments in infrastructure, skill development, and industrial productivity, emphasizing the role of the private sector in driving innovation and competitiveness.

5. As the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) 2016-2025, nears completion, we acknowledge the independent evaluation's findings, which call for stronger African ownership of the post-2025 industrialization agenda; a successor program with robust governance structures and clearer roles for stakeholders; and a renewed focus on capacity building for Africa's institutions, ensuring they can sustain industrial growth and diversification.
6. As we move toward the next phase of Africa's industrialization, the establishment of the Africa Industrialization Fund which was recognized as a priority to support industrial development initiatives remains key to alleviating financing for industrial development. Apart from this, we call upon regional and international partners to align their funding commitments with Africa's industrialization agenda and to enhance technical assistance and capacity building for Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member states.
7. We also recognize notable progress made by African Union Member states and others stakeholders in advancing the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA). Through enhancing technical cooperation and mobilizing resources for industrial development; supporting Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) - critical for job creation, particularly for youth and women; Developing Regional Value Chains in sectors such as agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, textiles and automotive industries. We believe that the operationalization of the AfCFTA which will boost intra-African trade, especially in manufactured goods and hence, African countries need to enhance their industrial capacities to take advantage of the integrated African Market.
8. In line with the outcomes of the 17th AU Extraordinary Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification (Niamey, 2022), we recognize the critical need for coordinated efforts among member states, RECs, development partners, and financial institutions to tackle structural challenges such as infrastructure deficits, access to finance, and skill gaps. It was agreed that building resilient industries in Africa requires strategic investments and policy reforms aimed at improving the ease of doing business and ensuring inclusive participation of youth and women in industrial activities.

9. As part of the follow-up to the said summit, we acknowledge the efforts made by the AU Commission, UNIDO, UNECA and other partners in advancing industrialization on the continent and contributing to the formulation of a comprehensive Plan of Action for implementing the outcomes of the Summit. We look forward to continued collaboration in mobilizing resources through international and regional partnerships; accelerating infrastructure development to support industrial activities and regional integration; promoting research and innovation, with a focus on clean technology and the digital economy; reducing Africa's vulnerability to external supply chain disruptions by enhancing regional self-sufficiency and diversifying its industrial base; and supporting capacity building for Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States to effectively implement industrialization strategies.
10. We also underscore the importance of promoting Regional Value Chains (RVCs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to enhance intra-African trade, develop export-oriented industries, and stimulate value addition and beneficiation of Africa's natural resources. This is key to ensuring Africa's fair participation in global value chains and fostering sustainable economic growth. The continent should utilize evidence unearthed from studies undertaken in terms of viable RVCs, new generation of SEZs and take necessary steps on how these industrialization vehicles can benefit their local economies.
11. We further reaffirm the importance of environmental sustainability in Africa's industrialization agenda. Indeed, building industries that are resilient to climate change, environmentally sound, and socially inclusive is critical to achieving long-lasting economic transformation. Sustainable industrialization must be at the core of Africa's efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063, *"The Africa We Want."*
12. In conclusion, we reaffirm our collective commitment to inclusive, sustainable, and resilient industrialization as a pathway for Africa's structural transformation. We urged all partners and stakeholders to prioritize the development and effective implementation of key industrial policies, ensure that no one is left behind, and work towards the successful realization of Africa's industrial development goals in the coming decade as well as realizing the African Union Agenda 2063.
13. Our shared efforts will drive the continent towards greater economic resilience, social equity, and environmental sustainability, ensuring that Africa takes its rightful place as a global industrial powerhouse.