



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

**TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES**

**Check Against Delivery**

**Video address by**

**Her Excellency MARIE CHATARDOVA  
President of the Economic and Social Council**

**Side Event on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016-2025)  
(IDDA III)  
UNIDO Headquarters (Vienna)**

**30 November 2017**

Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to send a message at the beginning of this important Side Event on IDDA III, as I am unable to join you in person.

Allow me to underscore the commitment of the Economic and Social Council to being an effective, transparent global platform in support of Africa's poverty eradication and sustainable development efforts.

ECOSOC is the locus for supporting implementation and tracking global progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It provides a unique space for Member States and other stakeholders to convene, share knowledge and forge solutions to obstacles challenging development progress. This includes forging solutions to advance the structural transformation needed across Africa in support of inclusive growth, widespread job creation and enhanced social inclusion.

In 2016-2017, at the initiative of the 71<sup>ST</sup> President of ECOSOC – my predecessor Ambassador Frederick Shava of Zimbabwe – the Council addressed the important topic of infrastructure development and industrialization.

A Special Meeting of ECOSOC was convened in May 2017, which was preceded by two preparatory events in Dakar, Senegal and Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. These meetings



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## TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

brought together key stakeholders from Governments, the private sector, financing institutions and the UN system, to discuss policy options and obstacles to building resilient infrastructure and promoting sustainable industrialization in developing countries, particularly countries in special situations – least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

One of the many recommendations emerging from the Special Meeting was the recognition of the catalytic and cross-cutting role of infrastructure development and sustainable industrialization to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Two concrete initiatives for scaling up support of the 2030 Agenda were announced at the ECOSOC Special Meeting: UNIDO's Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) and; the Accelerated Agribusiness and Agro-industry Initiative, or 3ADI.

I understand from UNIDO and FAO colleagues that implementation of both initiatives is in full speed. ECOSOC will continue to support these efforts, including through engagement and follow-up on their progress.

I look forward to continuing the close collaboration between ECOSOC and all who are partnering in their implementation.

I thank you and wish you a productive meeting.