



PRESS RELEASE

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**SECRETARY-GENERAL EMPHASIZES ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN
INDUSTRIAL GROWTH IN MESSAGE TO ASSEMBLY AS IT COMMEMORATES
AFRICA INDUSTRIALIZATION DAY**

Following is the text of a message from Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on the occasion of Africa Industrialization Day, 20 November. The message was delivered on his behalf at the Assembly today by Rosario Green, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs:

Twenty November is Africa Industrialization Day. It is the day when Africa celebrates its achievements in the field of industry, and commits itself to industrialization as part of its development goals. I am pleased to join in the celebration of these goals and achievements.

I would especially like to underline the importance of the day for the United Nations system as a whole.

African development is perhaps the single greatest challenge facing the international community. Increasingly the world community is beginning to recognize the vital need to support Africa's effort for stability, social progress, and the eradication of hunger and disease.

Industry has an essential role in economic and social development. Industrial growth will be a key component of progress in Africa. The needs are there in abundance. But so are the natural and human resources. What is required of us is a full commitment of all the development partners to greater and special efforts.

The United Nations new agenda for the development of Africa in the 1990s provides the framework within which the United Nations system will support economic and social progress in Africa in the years to come. The United Nations Industrial Development Organizations (UNIDO), the United Nations Economic Commission for

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Africa (UNECA), and the other parts of the United Nations system -- in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) -- are committed to working closely together to advance the objectives of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. I would like to take this opportunity to assure African countries of my full support for their efforts in industrialization and my determination that the United Nations system shall give of its best in providing support to them.

As Secretary-General, the mobilization of the United Nations system in support of development has been a special priority for me. The preparation of country strategy notes is an important part of this effort. Through this process, the United Nations system mobilizes its efforts in support of country priorities -- as determined by the country itself. Let me assure you that the needs of industrial development will be taken fully into account in this process.

The theme of this year's Africa Industrialization Day is the private sector. It is a particularly appropriate theme because it is the private sector which will have the principal role to play in generating successful industrial growth, as the example of other parts of the world shows us. Because the industrial sector in Africa is presently small, this will be a demanding role. Foreign investment can help and must be encouraged. The right industrial policies and support institutions are essential, and African governments are taking many of the steps needed. However, it is the African industrialists, large and small who will face the greatest challenges and who need all our support.

Let us wish them well. Together, let us encourage the international community to give them the support they need and deserve in confronting the challenges that lie ahead.
