



STATEMENT BY THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA DURING THE THIRTY-NINETH SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION DELIVERED BY MS. KARIM DURAND, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, PERMANENT MISSION OF PERU 22-24 OCTOBER 2012

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Ambassador Ana Teresa Dengo, chair the Thirty-Ninth Session of the Preparatory Commission. The Group is certain that under your guidance, the tasks put in front of the Preparatory Commission at the present session will be concluded successfully.
2. The Group also takes this opportunity to convey its appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Chile, Ambassador Labbé, for his tenure as Chairman of the Preparatory Commission during the Thirty-Eighth Session and for his contribution to the work of this plenary body. Furthermore, the Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary for his opening remarks.
3. The Group takes note of the meeting held in New York on 27 September 2012 with the aim of facilitating the Entry Into Force of the CTBT.
4. Allow me now to address the various agenda items. Recognizing that there are many important issues deserving our attention, the Group of 77 and China would like to comment on some of these items as they are put forward in our draft agenda.

Madam Chair,

5. On agenda item 3, on the consideration of the report of Working Group A, the Group takes note of the report and the recommendations contained therein and would like to thank Ambassador Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan for his work done in steering this body. The Group would like to offer a few thoughts under this agenda item.
6. Pertaining to the proposed changes to the financial rules and regulations, the Group of 77 and China would like to reiterate that although it welcomes efforts by the PTS to increase the accountability and the transparency of the Preparatory Commission, special attention should be given to changes of those financial rules that are necessary for the implementation of the ERP-IPSAS project. Moreover, the Group is encouraged by the PTS commitment to deliver the ERP project in time and within the allocated budget.
7. The Group wishes to emphasize the importance it attaches to the financial stability of the Commission, and in this regard, welcomes the payment of assessed contributions in arrears by a number of States Signatories since the last Working Group A Session.
8. The Group underscores the positive results achieved thus far by the Pilot Project for financing the participation of technical experts from developing countries in official technical meetings of the Commission, and notes with satisfaction that ten participants are currently funded under this project. The Group expresses its appreciation to all States Signatories which contribute voluntarily to the Pilot Project but notes with concern that the sustainment of the project is in jeopardy, should financial resources not become available to fund the experts currently being financed under this project for 2013.
9. The Group of 77 and China therefore urges States Signatories in a position to do so to provide additional contributions, and invites the Executive Secretary to continue to utilize his good offices in this regard. The Group also calls upon the PTS to continue exploring other ways and means to ensure the predictability of

this project.

Madam Chair,

10. On agenda item 4, the Group takes note of the report of the Thirty-Ninth Session of Working Group B and its recommendations, and thanks Dr Hein Haak for his work in chairing this body. On issues falling under the purview of Working Group B, the Group of 77 and China would like to make the following comments:

11. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the improvements introduced in the method of work of Working Group B, which tried to facilitate the participation from all delegations regardless of their size. However, the Group underlines the need to further optimize the efficiency of WGB Sessions with the aim of reducing the financial burden its attendance imposes on States Signatories. Furthermore, the Group would encourage the policy-making organs, in the near future, to conduct a thorough review of the number of sessions and working methods of the policy-making organs and to consider the necessity thereof.

12. Pertaining to agenda item 5, the report of the Advisory Group and of the recommendations to the Executive Secretary, the Preparatory Commission and Working Group A, as contained in paragraphs 80-81, respectively. The Group takes this opportunity to thank the Advisory Group and its Chairman, Sir Michael Weston, for their work and for the report presented to the Commission at its current session. The Group has already expressed its detailed views of these reports in the WGA sessions.

13. On Item 6 concerning the final draft 2013 Programme and Budget proposal, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the proposed adjustments recently presented by the Secretariat. However slight, such modifications demonstrate the potential for the identification of savings through rigorous estimates and priority setting. The Group reiterates that in the next budget cycle, utmost priority should be given by the Secretariat to the elimination of unnecessary increases in levels of expenditure and to the identification of possible further savings.

Madam Chair,

14. With respect to agenda item 7, regarding the Appointment of the Executive Secretary, the Group appreciates your efforts and the informal consultations that have been held under your guidance. The Group further appreciates the session held on 27 September 2012 which afforded the respective candidates an opportunity to share their vision for the Commission with States Signatories.

15. As to agenda item 8.2 on the Appointments to the Advisory Group, the Group takes note of the nomination of the two respective candidates of Algeria and Nigeria to serve as members of the Advisory Group and expresses its support for the nominated candidates from the Group.

16. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China reiterates its pledge to work in both a constructed and committed way. Thank you Madam Chair.

**23 October 2012**

**STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA UPON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE CTBTO AT THE 39TH SESSION OF THE PREPCOM, 24 OCTOBER 2012**

Madam Chair.

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Ana Teresa Dengo, for steering the process of the Appointment of the Executive Secretary in a successful, inclusive and transparent

manner.

2. The Group welcomes the fact that, for the first time, the Executive Secretary is a national from the Group of 77. The Group believes that a close, transparent and frequent dialogue with all State Signatories is an essential condition for a successful mandate and therefore expects to build a fruitful partnership with the new Executive Secretary.

Madam Chair,

3. The Group attaches great importance to the multilateral efforts aimed at promoting peace, security and confidence building, and is genuinely committed to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Therefore, the Group fully supports the CTBT, which, according to the letter and spirit of the Treaty, must provide for an effective disarmament and non-proliferation measure, by putting an end to all sorts of nuclear testing, including experiments associated with the ongoing modernization of nuclear arsenals. The Group is fully confident that the new Executive Secretary shares this broader perspective of the majority of States on the Treaty's role in the multilateral architecture leading to a world free of nuclear weapons.

4. The Group takes this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Lassina Zerbo on his election to the post of Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO and looks forward to engaging with him upon his assumption of duties. Thank you Madam Chair.