
Statement for the G-77 Handover Ceremony

26 January 2023

Delivered by Mr Junan Zhang on behalf of Executive Secretary Dr Robert Floyd

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of Dr Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). Dr Floyd asked me to pass on that he would dearly have liked to be here, for this important G-77 event but he has had to travel home for personal reasons.

May I start by expressing sincere thanks to Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of Morocco, for his kind invitation. Ambassador Farhane has performed his role as Chairman of the G-77 Vienna Chapter in 2022 in the most outstanding manner. His vision of ensuring sustainability, creativity, and complementarity of the Group gave more visibility to the G-77 and contributed to strengthening the Vienna Spirit through a dynamic dialogue and collaborative approach.

I would like to congratulate Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, on assuming the Chairmanship of the Group during 2023. The Executive Secretary, and the CTBTO, look forward to working with Ambassador Aftab and offer our full support in this important role.

Regional groups coming together and developing a unified voice to promote their collective interests are a driving force behind the multilateral system. I applaud the role that the G-77 plays in enhancing cooperation amongst the Vienna-based Organizations, contributing to the CTBT and its verification regime, and to the non-proliferation and disarmament architecture.

The Group's well-established values of multilingualism, geographic representation and gender parity resonate strongly at the CTBTO, we will continue to strive, as you do, to further enhance inclusiveness in all that we do. The Provisional Technical Secretariat has made great progress in these areas and is determined to make more.

The collaboration between the CTBTO and the G-77 is also reflected in, among other things, the latest development of the NDCs4All Initiative, and active discussions to strengthen capacity building amongst State Signatories. G-77 members now have greater ownership of the technologies related to the verification system and can better harness the benefits of the CTBT membership.

This year we look forward to working with the Group, its members, and all CTBT States Signatories to further progress towards the universalization and entry into force of the

Treaty. In the last year 6 of the 7 new ratifications of the Treaty have come from the G-77. Most recently Solomon Islands, just last week.

This is testament to your efforts, and our shared ambition for a world without nuclear tests.

Thank you.