



## *G-77 Handover Ceremony*

**Statement delivered by H.E Ambassador Azzedine  
FARHANE, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom  
of Morocco and Chairperson of Vienna Chapter during  
2022**

Vienna, January 26<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Your Excellency, Ms. Ghada Fathi Wali Director General of UNOV and Executive Director of UNODC,**  
**Your Excellency, Mr. Gerd Muller, Director General of UNIDO;**  
**Your Excellency, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of IAEA;**  
**Your Excellency, Mr. Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of CTBTO;**  
**Your Excellency, Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary of UNCITRAL;**  
**Your Excellency, Mr. Niklas Hedman, Director of UNOOSA;**  
**Distinguish Ambassadors, members of Permanent Missions in Vienna, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Let me at the outset welcome you all to the handover ceremony of the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China between Morocco and Pakistan. I would like to seize this opportunity to present to you all my best wishes for this year 2023.

I would like to begin my last statement as a chair by congratulating you, Ambassador **Aftab Ahmad Khokher** of Pakistan, for assuming this new position as Chairperson of our Group. I am confident that with your commitment, experience and diplomatic skills, well known since our times in Geneva, the Group will be in the best hands. Dear **Aftab**, I wish you all the best and be assured of my full support and cooperation during your tenure.

**Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

It is with a great honor that my country took last year the chairmanship of the G-77 Vienna Chapter. In this respect, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the Group of 77 for the confidence and trust given to my country to take over this significant task. With your support, the Group took consensual actions to preserve and promote its shared interests and aspirations. My Team and I tried to best of our abilities to fulfil our task in order to meet the expectations of G77 and China.

Last year, when the Group entrusted me with the responsibility to Chair the G77, I established 3 main axes as a roadmap to guide our collective action. These axes are:

- 1. Sustainability of the 3 sub-groups of G77 (African, Asia, GRULAC and groups).**
- 2. Creativity of the 3 sub-groups of G77.**
- 3. Complementarity, synergy and dynamic between G77 and the other regional groups.**

**To what extent we have succeeded in implementing these roadmap axes?**

**Thanks to the full cooperation and active involvement of G77 and China members, last year's achievements further enhanced and reinforced the sustainability, the creativity and the complementarity.** Our collective actions in the different international organizations based in Vienna have offered the Group and its members a vast array of opportunities to advance our work, even during difficult international context and challenging times.

Let me take stock of this collective effort which required **many Plenary meetings** including with the Executive Heads present today, **72 Task Force meetings** and **2 Working Groups**; for an impressive total of **79 meetings and 62 statements.**

- 1. In terms of Sustainability:**

**Under a context marked by unprecedented international and geopolitical tensions, our Group, last year, preserved its core principles in order to strengthen the collaborative approach on global issues and to take consensual decisions addressing the current challenges we collectively faced.**

**As you may know, the G77 is rich by its diverse geographical representation. Consensus has remained the driving force for the success of G77, allowing the Group to reach common positions. It is worth mentioning that all our statements in the past year were agreed by consensus thanks to the collaborative approach and the positive commitment of the members of the Group as a whole.**

It is relevant to point out that the **10 resolutions submitted by the G77** related to Technical Cooperation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology **were adopted by consensus** during the 66th General Conference, which shows the Group's leadership and strong support it enjoys in these thematic areas.

Furthermore, the G-77 and China played an active role in the consultation process facilitating the approval of the IAEA budget update for 2023, by engaging with the different actors with a view to bridging positions and reaching consensus on the proposed budget document, which will be officially adopted, tomorrow, by the IAEA General Conference.

## **2. In terms of Creativity:**

A good illustration of the G77 creative contributions was the resolution presented by Angola and Peru, which was adopted after laborious negotiations by consensus during the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the CCPCJ last May, on *“the Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife.”* **This resolution enjoyed a wide support from non G77 members and** was negotiated within the **Committee of the Whole** chaired by Morocco.

Besides, our Group continued to play a significant active role in reinforcing its action with the Vienna based International Organizations. Indeed, the G77 and China focused in the AIEA on striking a balance between the promotional and non-promotional activities of the Agency and on reinforcing Technical Cooperation Programs. Likewise, the Group continued to present its views and to deliver statements at **UNIDO, UNODC, CTBTO, UNCITRAL and COPUOS** meetings, reiterating its positions, sharing valuable perspectives and positive contributions representing input from Members States of three geographic regions.

## **3. In terms of enhancing complementarity, synergy and dynamic between the G77 and the other regional groups:**

Last June, I was pleased to co-chair with the EU a meeting on ways and means to strengthen political dialogue between the G77 and the other regional groups and launch constructive initiatives that could reinforce the Vienna spirit of consensus on topics related to the different organizations. I am confident that this dialogue will allow us to engage further in order to strengthen synergies and complementarities between different Groups. This complementarity was highlighted during the process of negotiation of the resolutions presented by the G77 and China which was supported by the EU Member States.

**Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,**

**I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation for the exceptional work of the chairs of the Task Forces.** Their dedication, professionalism, and hard work in organizing task force meetings, drafting statements, and providing substantial support for the Group, greatly contributed to our success. I take pride in all these achievements and accomplishments which would not have been possible without the Task Force efforts. I wish to recognize and pay tribute today to:

- Mr. **Amir Saeed** from Pakistan for **IAEA** matters;
- Mr. **Essam Al Raggad** from Jordan for **UNIDO** matters;
- Mr. **Fernando Marques** from Angola for **UNODC** matters;
- Mr. **Renato Gómez Oporto** from Chile in **CTBTO** matters;
- Ms. **Andrea Lynn Lazaro** from the Philippines for **COPUOS** matters and;
- Mr. **Hanaan Asaku** from Ghana for **UNCITRAL** matters.

Last but not least, I would like to pay a special tribute to Ms Annemarie Heuls for her outstanding role in brilliantly, elegantly and professionally coordinating the G77 meetings. She was at the core center of G77 action for many years and will stay as a dear member of our G77 family for the years to come. I would like also to warmly welcome Ms Crosby Plaza, our new Coordinator, among the G77 family and wish her all the best. I am confident that with your high professional skills together with the Group support, you will be able to smoothly coordinate the G77 meetings for the coming years.

My thanks go also to the staff members of the Office of the G77 Vienna Chapter who work hard behind the scenes to arrange our meetings. Thank you, Ms Alejandra Arteaga Valverde, Ms Stephanie Pais Raposo, Ms Maria Vittoria Bini, and Ms Valentina Belmar Erilkin for your valuable contributions.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank once again UNIDO for its contribution to the Group in financially supporting the Office of the G77 Vienna Chapter since its establishment in 1998.

**I Thank You.**

- **And now, it is my pleasure to officially hand over the Chairmanship of the Group of 77, Vienna Chapter, for the year 2023, to H.E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan.**