



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



# **MOROCCAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP OF 77 (VIENNA CHAPTER FOR 2022)**

## STATEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

*Ensuring visibility, forging consensus, strengthening multilateralism*





UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

## **MOROCCAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP OF 77 (VIENNA CHAPTER FOR 2022)**

### **STATEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS**

***Ensuring visibility, forging consensus, strengthening multilateralism***

© 2023 United Nations Industrial Development Organization

This document has been produced without formal United Nations editing. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or its economic system or degree of development. Designations such as “developed”, “industrialized” or “developing” are intended for statistical convenience and do not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process. Mention of firm names or commercial products does not constitute an endorsement by UNIDO.

Material in this publication may be freely quoted or reprinted, provided that the source is fully acknowledged. For reference and citation, please use: Moroccan Chairmanship of the Group of 77 (Vienna Chapter for 2022). Statements and Resolutions.



# CONTENTS

Preface	vii
Foreword	viii
Handover Ceremony of the G-77 Chairmanship of the Vienna Chapter for 2022	1
<b>UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS)</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL)</b>	<b>145</b>
Political Dialogue between the Group of 77 and the European Union	149
Handover Ceremony of the G-77 Chairmanship of the Vienna Chapter for 2023	155





## Preface



[H.E Mr Azzeddine FARHANE](#)

Ambassador Permanent Representative to UNOV  
and international organizations in Vienna  
Chair of the G-77 Vienna Chapter for 2022

« It was crucial for the Moroccan presidency to keep our group standing together united as a group whose members believe in consensus as described by Plato through his dialogues “Crito and Protagoras”. Consensus building often proves to be a laborious process which requires efforts, patience, wisdom and time. It is indeed the driving force for the success of multilateral diplomacy and the efficiency of Vienna spirit »



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

## Foreword



Gerd Müller,  
Director General, Unido

The G-77, established in 1964, has become the largest intergovernmental coalition of developing countries in international affairs, advancing its collective interests and promoting South-South cooperation in the multilateral forums. With its 134 members, the Group today continues to strive towards a more equitable and sustainable world, where all nations can thrive and prosper.

The Vienna Chapter of the Group of 77 provides an immeasurable contribution to international diplomacy. Through the active engagement of the Group in the work of the UN-system and international organizations based in Vienna, it helps shape global policy priorities on such diverse issues as promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development; the peaceful use of nuclear energy; tackling illicit drugs, organized crime, corruption and preventing terrorism; banning of nuclear testing; promoting international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of space and the modernization and harmonization of rules on international business.



During 2022, under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Mr. Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations in Vienna, the Group and its members provided pivotal support to the mandates of the UNIDO, IAEA, UNODC, CTBTO, UNOOSA and UNCITRAL.

As evidenced by the events of the past year, the world continues to face significant challenges, from the threat of armed conflict and climate change to poverty, hunger and persistent health crises. In the face of these difficulties, the G-77 has remained steadfast in its commitment to international cooperation and collaboration, working closely with its partners in the United Nations and beyond to promote a more equitable, safe and sustainable world.

In particular, I would like to highlight the important and long-standing partnership that UNIDO has formed with the G-77. Together, we have helped promote an effective model of industrial development and economic growth in many G-77 countries, while also advancing global progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNIDO is honoured to collaborate with the G-77 on this publication. The following pages contain the statements delivered by the G-77 and China in 2022 as a useful record of the Group's positions, providing insights and inspiration for future collaboration, as well as a foundational resource to inform policy debate and decision-making in the service of a better tomorrow.

Gerd Müller





**HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE  
G-77 CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE  
VIENNA CHAPTER FOR 2022**



H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco, takes over the Chairmanship of the G-77 Vienna Chapter for 2022, from H.E. Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Chairperson for 2021, during the Handover Ceremony held on 26 January 2022, in the presence of Ms Ghada Fathi Waly, Director-General/ Executive Director of UNOV/UNODC  
Photo Credit: Dean Calma / IAEA



## **G-77 Handover Ceremony delivered by H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica and Chairperson of the Vienna Chapter during 2021**

Your Excellency, Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Director General of UNOV and Executive Director of UNODC;

Your Excellency, Mr. Gerd Müller, 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;

Distinguished Ambassadors, members of Permanent Missions in Vienna, dear colleagues.-

Let me at the outset welcome you all to the handover ceremony of the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 + China between Costa Rica and Morocco. I would like to seize this opportunity to present to you all my best wishes for this year 2022.

My appreciation to the heads of organizations and their representatives for being here, strong political signal that underscores our shared commitment and common mission. Special welcome to Mr. Gerd Müller and Mr. Robert Floyd who are here with us for the first time, as they assumed their offices recently.

I would like to start my final statement as a chair by congratulating you, Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane of Morocco, for assuming this new position as Chairperson of our Group. I am confident of your commitment and diplomatic skills, well known since our times in Geneva 2 decades ago, certainly the Group will be in the best hands. Dear Azzeddine, I wish you all the best and pleased, be assured of my full support during your tenure.

A year ago, Costa Rica had the honour and the privilege of taking over the Chairmanship of the Group for the first time and also first time for a Central American country in Vienna. We committed to honour this challenging but prestigious task, to safeguard the interest of our Group and consolidate its well-established values. We hope that we have contributed to the fulfillment of these aspirations.

Allow me to pay special tribute to the different chairs of the Task Forces who performed their duties in an outstanding manner. Their dedication, professionalism and outstanding hard work in convening task force meetings, drafting statements and in providing overall substantive support for the work of the Group, mainly contributed to our achievements. My recognition to Bolivar Bao from the Philippines for ONUDI matters; Ms. Metsi Letlala from South Africa and Mr. Mahmoud Hamdy from Egypt for AIEA matters; Mr. Carlos Garcia from Guatemala for UNODC matters; Mr. Mfundo Majosi from South Africa who took over from Mr. Elyes Lakhel from Tunisia in CTBTO matters; Mr. Patricio Urueña from Argentina for UNOOSA matters and Mr. Zainal Izran Zahari from Malaysia for UNCITRAL matters.

During 2021 and despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the G-77 holds numerous meetings at the Plenary and at task force level. In total we had 11 plenary meetings, 84 Task Force meetings and 3 Working Groups; it means in total 98 meetings. In term of statements, we delivered 39 statements, 6 in UNIDO, 16 in AIEA, 8 in CTBTO, 6 in ONUDC (CND, CCPCJ AND KYOTO CONGRESS) and 3 in UNOOSA.

Also, let me thank the VBOs for their continued assistance provided to Members of the Group in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic and the excellent cooperation we have had and the continued dialogue with the different Secretariats. The Group actively participated in the policy-making organs processes of each of the VBOs. I hope that the Group is proud of our collective accomplishments in 2021.

In term of our work, some brief ideas. We need to reinforce our Groups continued engagement to the work of the Vienna-based Organizations and strengthen multilateralism in these difficult times. Therefore, the high-level attendance during the Group meetings must be maintained and delegations must continue to participate actively in the process, to keep evolving common positions and advancing new ideas and strategies to respond to the current challenges. Unfortunately, I couldn't convene a retreat to discuss our present or future as I expected last December. Ideas like the establishment of a troika, substantive approach with concrete targets, fostering the synergies among the regions, ways to interact with others non member States and even the improving of our methods of work, could be considered.

Dear Directors/ Dear Ambassadors.-

I would like to express our particular appreciation to UNIDO for their support to the Group in hosting the Vienna Chapter since its establishment in 1998 and for supporting the Group by providing us with an effective and dynamic Secretariat. At the same time, my sincere appreciation for the excellent cooperation along the year by the IAEA, CTBTO, UNODC, UNCITRAL and UNOOSA, this facilitated our endeavors. With this in mind, I invite Executive Heads of all VBOs to explore ways to support the functioning of the Office.

If you allow me, I would like to dedicate one particular message to one special person, Annemarie Heuls and her team of interns. Annemarie is no just the memory of the group, is the soul and the support of all who had served as a chair. Her competence, knowledge and dedication had contributed to the smooth preparation and coordination of the activities of the Group. Thank you Annemarie, thank you for your hard and dedicated work for our Group over the last 24 years.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you for your cooperation and solidarity and for having worked with me closely during the last year. I want to thank once again your trust in our delegation and I sincerely hope that we were able to live up to your expectations.

Before I invite my successor, Ambassador Farhane to come forward and take over the position of Chairperson of G-77 Vienna Chapter for the year 2022, if you allow me Ambassador, I would like to call personally to Ms Annemarie Heuls and all the G-77 Task Force Coordinators 2021 here presented at the podium:

I thank. Ambassador Farhane, please come to the podium. The floor is yours.  
Congratulations.





H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco, delivers his acceptance speech as Chairperson of the G-77 for 2022.  
Photo Credit: Dean Calma / IAEA



Vienna, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## ***G-77 Handover Ceremony 2022***

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

*Your Excellency, Ms. Ghada Fathi Wali, Director General of UNCTV and Executive Director of UNCTC;  
Your Excellency, Mr. Gerd Müller, Director General of UNIDO;  
Your Excellency, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of IAEA;  
Your Excellency, Mr. Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of CEBFV;  
Your Excellency, Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary of UNCTRAL;  
Your Excellency, Ms. Simonetta di Pippo, Director of UNCTSA;  
Distinguish Ambassadors, members of Permanent Missions in Vienna, Ladies and Gentlemen*

It is a great honor for my country and for me to officially receive today, for the first time, the chairmanship of the G-77 Vienna Chapter. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the Group of 77 for the confidence and trust they put in my country to take over this significant task. I would like to assure you that throughout this year, my team and I will spare no effort to carry out the duties of the Chair, to preserve and promote the interests and aspirations of the Group, and to support each and every one of you to the best of our abilities.

I would like to express my appreciation and recognition to Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz and his team, for his valuable efforts in progressing the interests of the Group and for all the achievements made throughout his chairmanship, in spite of the challenging times due the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ***Excellencies and ladies and gentlemen***

The G-77 has emerged as the most important forum of developing countries in international fora in order to secure their right to sustainable development, and to promote and articulate their economic and social interests. The principles of working together on global issues, making decisions and taking positions as one, and moving forward with new approaches to respond to the current challenging times, and our collective engagement to achieve the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, are some of the principles that define the Group of 77.

**It is crucial, therefore, that we keep standing together united as a whole group which believes in consensus as described by Plato through his dialogues “Crito and Protagoras”. We all know that consensus building often proves to be a laborious process which requires efforts, patience wisdom and time; but reaching consensus has been the driving force for the success of multilateral diplomacy and the efficiency of Vienna spirit**

In this regard, I would like to share with you some ideas and perspectives to be explored and harnessed for ensuring more visibility to our group and contributing for strengthening the Vienna consensus Spirit through a dynamic and collaborative approach between the 3 subgroups of G77 and the other regional groups:



***First: sustainability of the 3 sub-groups of G77 (African, GRULAC and Asia groups)***

The 3 sub-groups are among the key elements for the sustainability of multilateral Network in terms of promoting collaborative actions for reaching consensus on issues of common interest. In other words, the 3 sub-groups contribution are outcome focused. Indeed, each sub-group aims to produce a contribution to be enhanced, sustained and supported as a successful input of the whole group (G77) to the international debate on global issues.

***Second: Creativity of the 3 sub- groups of G77***

The creativity and sustainability of the sub-groups will develop ideas, proposals and actions to undertake regarding the multilateral initiatives and projects that we believe in their implementation for the interest of the international community as a creative and coordinate responses to the issues and challenges at hand.

***Third: Complementarity, synergy and dynamic between G77 and the other regional groups***

The dialogue with the other groups on the consensual topics and constructive initiatives could strengthen the Vienna consensus spirit as **Vienna multilateral architecture** offers us the possibility to interact positively between the G77 sub-groups and the other regional groups and to engage mutual support on technical cooperation, **keeping in mind that the more we interact in a dynamic, in closeness and togetherness , the more we will be able to reach the complementarity and synergy so anticipated**

***Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen***

Within this collaborative approach of creativity, complementarity and sustainability, I would like to express my appreciation to the Heads of International Organizations and their representatives. Their presence among us today indicates and reaffirms our shared commitment and the importance they add to the work and activities of the Group of 77 in Vienna.

In this regard, and on behalf of the G-77, I would like to present the warmest welcome to Dr. Robert Floyd, who was appointed as Executive Secretary of CTBTO in August 2021, and Mr. Gerd Müller, who was appointed as Director General of UNIDO in December 2021. Let me here assure you both of the constructive support from the Group of 77 during your tenures as Executive Secretary and as Director General. Here, I would like to reiterate our will to continue working with all Vienna based Organizations to further consolidate and strengthen international cooperation as well as to address the priorities of our Member States, in order the sustain the development efforts of the members of the Group.

**It is my intention to engage a dialogue on a regular basis with all the members of the Group and Executive Heads of VBOs in order to promote and implement the G-77 priorities within a dynamic and collaborative approach, aiming at reinforcing a positive dialogue with the EU and other regional groups.**

***Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen***

Before I conclude, let me thank UNIDO for financially supporting the Office of the G-77 since its establishment in 1998. I welcome the other Vienna based Organizations to extend their support and contribution towards the work of the G-77, particularly in the light of the need to reinforce the office. I will be particularly pleased of any financial contribution by the Executive Heads of the VBOs to the functioning of the Office.

I also take this opportunity, on behalf of the G-77 Vienna Chapter to express gratitude to Ms. Annemarie Heuls, Liaison Officer of the G-77 for her excellent support and dedicated work for our Group over the last 24 years with her team of dedicated interns.

Let me conclude by thanking once again all of you for your support and trust in carrying out this task. I herewith wish to announce the following G-77 Task Force Coordinators:

UNODC: African Group – Mr. Fernando Marques from Angola

IAEA: Asia Pacific Group – Mr. Amir Saeed from Pakistan

CTBTO: GRULAC – Mr. Renato Gomez Opodo from Chile

COPUOS: Asia Pacific Group – Ms. Andrea Lynn Lazaro from the Philippines

UNCITRAL: African Group – Mr. Hanaan Asaku from Ghana and

UNIDO: Asia Pacific Group – Mr. Essam Alraggad from Jordan

I pledge before you that the task force leaders and I will do our best to ensure the collective success of our Group. I look forward to your support and cooperation.

**I thank you.**



Executive Heads of the Vienna-based organizations present during the Handover Ceremony on 26 January 2022: DG Rafael Mariano Grossi (IAEA), DG/ED Ghada Fathi Waly (UNOV/UNODC), the incoming and outgoing Chairpersons of the G-77, DG Gerd Müller (UNIDO) and ES Robert Floyd (CTBTO).

Photo Credit: Dean Calma / IAEA

**UNODC Executive Director's Remarks**  
**Handover Ceremony of the G-77 Vienna Chapter**  
**Wednesday, 26 January 2022 11:00 a.m**

Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Chairperson of the Group of Seventy-Seven, Vienna Chapter Distinguished Ambassadors, Excellencies, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to join you today. At the outset, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz of Costa Rica for a successful tenure as Chair of the Group of Seventy-Seven and China, Vienna Chapter, and thank him for his able leadership during challenging times.

I would also like to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane of Morocco for taking on this important duty.

The Group of Seventy-Seven and China has always been a staunch supporter of multilateralism, and a defender of developing countries. Today the Group's membership stands at 134 Member States, making it an irreplaceable voice of the developing world. As we fight unprecedented crises, that voice is more important than ever. Recent years have seen developing countries lag behind, held back in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by inadequate financing, mounting debt, and threats to security, stability and prosperity. The COVID-pandemic has added another layer of complexity to an already dire situation. Around 11 percent of people in low-income countries have received vaccines, compared to almost 70 percent in high-income countries. The world's economies are recovering from the pandemic at a deeply unequal rate. While developed economies are on track for an almost full recovery by 2023, developing and transitioning economies are not projected to return to pre-pandemic growth and output rates even by then.

Some developing countries have lost up to a decade's worth of progress in eradicating poverty. The true and full impact of the pandemic, however, is yet to be fully seen. Organized crime and corruption are feeding on the consequences of the pandemic, and exploiting vulnerable people, while corruption undermines the health response and curtails efforts for a fair and effective recovery. Meanwhile, instability and conflict threaten many developing countries around the world, including in Central Asia, the Horn of Africa, and the Sahel, fuelling cycles of violence and lawlessness. The Group of Seventy-Seven and China has a leading role in protecting the developing world from these dangers, and the Group's chapter in Vienna has always been an active player. Last year, this Group made important contributions to the Vienna-based United Nations fora, including the Drugs and Crime Commissions, as well as the ninth Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption held in Egypt.

This year, I look forward to once again joining hands with the Group, under its new leadership, to pursue the interests and priorities of developing countries and all Member States. UNODC and UNOV remain committed to supporting the Group's interests around the world. The membership of this Group includes most of the countries where UNODC provides technical assistance and support. We need your guidance and cooperation to make sure that we are delivering to your needs. Last year, UNODC launched a Strategic Vision for Africa, shaped by our dialogue with stakeholders across the continent. This year we will launch a Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean, to better respond to regional priorities, and will count on

your continued feedback in shaping and implementing this document. We are also working to support the global response to the situation in Afghanistan, which may amplify terrorism and drug-related threats in Central Asia, the Middle East, and beyond.

We have developed the Strategic Stability Grid, a focused framework for our interventions in and around Afghanistan. Your support for this framework, and your assistance in mobilizing resources for it, will make a great difference in its success. We will also count on the crucial role of the Group and its members in supporting our intergovernmental processes. This includes the ongoing process to elaborate an international instrument on cybercrime, and efforts to carry forward the outcomes of the ninth CoSP, including on issues such as asset recovery and anticorruption in times of crisis. In parallel, we are working to improve geographical representation in the composition of our staff, so that our Offices better represent the diverse countries they serve, including the members of this group. In the past three years, the percentage of staff from less represented regions has increased, and I will continue to give this issue my utmost attention, to keep moving in the right direction.

In the meantime, my door will always be open to you Ambassador Farhane, and to all of you distinguished Ambassadors and colleagues, and I welcome your commitment to advancing the interests of developing countries and meeting their needs critical time.

Thank you, and I wish you a successful and fruitful year ahead.



Statement by Gerd Müller, UNIDO DG at G-77 Handover Ceremony  
26 January 2022, Conference Room 1, C-building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

---

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I am very pleased to be here with all of you, the representatives of the G-77.
- I congratulate you, **Ambassador Farhane**, on your election as the Chairperson of the Group. I learned that this is the first time for **Morocco** to assume this post in the 24-year history of the G-77 Vienna Chapter.
- I have worked very closely with Morocco during my time as German Development Minister. **I look forward to continuing this strong cooperation between the G-77 and UNIDO under your leadership.**
- Let me also thank **Ambassador Solano Ortiz of Costa Rica** for his leadership as Chairperson in 2021. **You did an excellent job!** We met many times in 2021 and I thank you for your guidance and support!
- **The Group of 77 is the most important constituency of UNIDO – three quarters of UNIDO’s member states are from the G-77.**
- So my first official engagement is to be here with you for the handover ceremony of the Vienna Chapter of the G-77.
- **We are currently facing three crises:** COVID-19 has become a polyandemic with the consequence of a health, hunger, economic and financial crisis.
- The second huge challenge is climate change and the third the accelerating loss of biodiversity!
- Developing and middle-income countries are hit the hardest. With UNIDO, **I want to build bridges between LDCs, MICs and industrialized countries.**

Excellencies,



- For almost 60 years now, the G77 is working hard for developing countries to reduce poverty, and to promote economic growth and participation in global markets.
- **There is some progress.** Over the past 25 years, we have reduced the number of people living in extreme poverty by half.
- **But we have to achieve more.** Over 750 million people still live on less than 1.25 US dollars per day. Due to COVID, 250 million jobs were lost in 2020 alone.
- We need **solidarity and stronger international cooperation** to face the challenges of today and tomorrow.
- **Under my leadership, UNIDO will be your partner – an even stronger partner - for political advice, technical support, innovation and investment.**
- Together, we need to give a voice to the needs and interests of the G-77. **We need to create jobs for the young people around the world, to end hunger, poverty and inequality.**

Excellencies,

- I look forward to working closely with all G-77 nations over the next four years.
- I will seek your views and get into a regular dialogue with your Chair, Ambassador Farhane, to develop the **UNIDO 2025 Programme.**

Thank you so much.







**UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL  
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION  
(UNIDO)**



**G-77 and China Statement during the UNIDO PBC 38<sup>th</sup> session, 21-22 June 2022,  
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzedine Farhane,  
Permanent Representative of Morocco**

Mr. Chair, [H.E. Ambassador Alessandro Cortese, Permanent Representative of Italy]

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, allow me, to congratulate you, Excellency Ambassador Alessandro Cortese, on your election as the Chairperson of this Committee within the UNIDO functional system. Let me also congratulate the other Members of the Bureau. We are confident that under your able leadership, we will have fruitful deliberations during this session.
2. Rest assured of our full cooperation and active participation during the Session. We endeavour to make your work easier, contributing meaningfully on matters pertinent to the Group.
3. The Group would like to commend to H.E. Ambassador Madam Faouzia Mebarki, Permanent Representative of Algeria and members of her Bureau, during the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Programme and Budget Committee, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. The Group takes note of Director General Gerd Müller introductory remarks during his first session of the PBC and reassures the Group's support for his efforts in leading this Organization.
5. The Group also wishes to thank the Secretariat for the timely issuance of documents and will address agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 12 of this session.

**Agenda item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2021**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group expresses its appreciation to the Director General for the Annual Report for 2021, which offers an overview of the achievements and improvements made, as well as challenges faced by the Organization during the past year. The Group wishes to provide the following remarks on the report.
2. At the outset, the Group welcomes the success of the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the UNIDO General Conference held in Vienna, Austria, in November last year and wishes to thank the former Director General Mr. LI Yong for his exemplary work in 2021.
3. The Group reaffirms the high importance it attaches to all initiatives, activities, and programmes implemented or planned by the Organization during the period covered in the report. We encourage the Director General and the Secretariat to continue moving forward to a full implementation of the Organization's mandate, thereby advancing progress of developing countries and economies in transition on the path to economic and social prosperity.
4. The Group commends the Organization for its technical assistance and capacity-building programmes provided to Member States, particularly developing countries, middle-income countries and Least Developed Countries. Such efforts must continue with a view to strengthen partnership, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing among Member States as well as with other stakeholders, including through South-South, North-South, and triangular cooperation.
5. The Group appreciates the Organization's continued contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by participating in various activities throughout 2021, including in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development as it reviewed SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17. We are also pleased that

the Organization through the Industrial Development Board submitted its inputs to the HLPF 2022.

6. The Group notes with satisfaction that UNIDO's portfolio of projects and programmes for future implementation amounted to 575.2 million USD in 2021, with 194.7 million USD mobilized in 2021. This stands testament to UNIDO's relevance as key player among global development organizations.

7. With regard to the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), the Group has followed the implementation of PCPs in Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia, with great interest. We look forward to the expansion of PCPs to other members of the Group, upon their request. We also attach great importance to the successful implementation of the Country Programmes (CPs) in Member States.

8. Finally, the Group welcomes significant progress in the implementation of the Medium-Term Programme Framework (MTPF) for 2018-2021 and the application of Integrated Results and Performance Framework (IRPF) in preparation of this report. Such improvement allows for a clearer comparison and analysis of the Organization's achievements both in quantitative and qualitative terms, and therefore should continue in future reports.

9. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Annual Report for 2021, as submitted in document IDB.50/2-PBC.38/2.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

#### **Agenda item 4: Report of the External Auditor for 2021**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the Report of the External Auditor on the accounts of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for the financial year starting from 1 January to 31 December 2021, as contained in Document IDB.50/3 PBC.38/3 and thanks Mr. Alexei Kudrin and the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation for this report.

2. The Group welcomes the continuation of the approach taken by the External Auditor to focus on three main areas of audit for UNIDO, namely, financial statements audit, performance audit and IT audit, as well as the inclusion of a section on innovations with optional recommendations to add value to the audit report.

3. We are pleased with the sustained views of the classification system, which categorize the findings as critical, high, medium, or low priority in terms of action to be undertaken. We remain of the view that this methodology is a useful tool to make maximum use of UNIDO's limited resources.

4. We note with concern that of the sixty recommendations from prior years that have been validated by the External Auditor, the current rate of implementation stands at only 40 percent, which is lower than 51 percent rate of implementation in 2020. The situation has resulted in the raise of unimplemented recommendations to 17 percent from just 12 percent in 2020, while ongoing action on recommendations have increased to 43 percent compared to 30 percent in 2020. We therefore encourage UNIDO to strengthen its efforts to further improve its rate of compliance with the recommendations of the External Auditor.

5. We encourage the Organization to continue working on the partially resolved observations and to address the still-open and ongoing issues in the report, regardless of their identified priority rankings.

6. We express concern that the three critical issues identified by the External Auditor continue in the area of Information Technology General Controls, with two of them only partially remediated and one not remediated. We strongly urge the Organization to carry on applying measures to strengthen its IT infrastructure and close the gaps in its systems to protect system integrity and data consistency.

7. We continue to note that funding for After Service Health Insurance, or ASHI, remains an area of concern as one of the long-term liabilities for the Organization, and we look forward to continuing the discussion in the Informal Working Group on PBC-related issues with the view to arriving at a viable solution to this issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

### **Agenda item 5: Financial situation of UNIDO, including unutilized balances of appropriations**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report on the Financial Situation of UNIDO as contained in document IDB.50/4-PBC.38/4 and welcomes the improved collection rate of 2022 assessed contributions as compared to the 2021 and 2020 and commends those Member States, which paid their assessed contributions on time.

2. The Group encourages Member States to continue timely payments of their contributions in full in order to maintain a healthy and stable financial outlook for the Organization even as countries recover from the impact of the pandemic and other challenges. Predictable, sufficient and assured funding remains vital for UNIDO to effectively deliver its core mandate of SDG 9 (Promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrial development).

3. The Group takes note of the improvement in the rate of collection of prior years' arrears, which is now 3.6 percent, up from 3.3 percent earlier. In this regard, the Group encourages the Members States in arrears to consider concluding multi-year payment plans to settle outstanding assessed contributions.

4. The Group appreciates those Member States, which renounced their share of unutilized balances to finance the budgetary gap and appeals to more Member States to follow suit. The Group also acknowledges the amount of €1,585,882 in unspent balances of appropriations which have been renounced for various purposes including to help finance the budgetary gap.

5. The Group values the efforts of the Director General to reach out to former Member States to settle their arrears including advances to the Working Capital Fund, and urges him to continue his efforts to improve the financial situation of the Organization.

6. The Group also wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Donor Governments, international financial institutions and other partners from the donor community for their contributions and encourage them to continue contributing to the Organization.

7. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China supports the adoption of the draft decision on agenda item 5 as recommended by the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the Programme and Budget Committee.

I thank you Mr. Chair.

## **Agenda item 6: Report of the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China continues to appreciate the work undertaken by the Informal Working Group on Programme and Budget Committee (IWG) and is particularly grateful for the dedication and leadership of the co-chairs from Poland and India, whom we warmly welcome. We also take this opportunity to thank Iran for the exemplary work as previous co-chair of the IWG.
2. The Group is appreciative of the mandate of the IWG and believes it to be a valuable platform for both Secretariat and Member States to deliberate and explore possible recommendations on important issues, including the programme and budgets of UNIDO. The Group also believes that the IWG's mandate has the potential to be expanded further to include discussions on emergent issues within the overall mandate and objectives of UNIDO. Agreed ad ref.
3. The Group welcomes the topics that have been identified by the IWG for its consideration in 2022. The topics like gender equity and personnel matters; efficiency and effectiveness of the programme and budgets implementation, the financial situation of UNIDO etc. are of deep interest to the Group Member States, who look forward to participate in the discussions on these matters in the IWG.
4. The Group encourages all Member States to continue participating in the meetings of the IWG in the coming months.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

## **Agenda item 7: Mobilization of financial resources**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the Director-General's report on mobilization of financial resources as contained in IDB.50/7- PBC.38/7.
2. The Group attaches great importance for the Organization to have a sufficient and predictable funding to enable UNIDO to fully and effectively deliver its core mandate and activities.
3. The Group encourages all donors to consider contributing programmable funds, specifically to enable UNIDO to respond rapidly to requests for assistance and develop and implement its programmatic activities in a prompt, coordinated and equitable manner.
4. The Group appeals to Member States to further consider contributing to UNIDO to enable the Organization to work with funding sources that require co-funding, either through contributing to the dedicated trust funds or by special purpose funding at country, regional or global level.
5. The Group takes note of the initiatives of the Secretariat to achieve savings and increase the efficiency of the Organization, and urges the Director General to accelerate and deepen these initiatives for the efficient use of available resources, and invites him, to continue searching for diverse and innovative funding sources.
6. The Group welcomes the on-going efforts of the Secretariat to address the financial constraints of the Organization through the establishment of Partnership Trust Fund as well as the Special Account of Voluntary Contributions for Core Activities (SAVCCA) and the Major Capital Investment Fund (MCIF).



7. The Group therefore supports the adoption of the draft decision on this agenda item 7 with the above comments.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

### **Agenda item 10: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) (South Africa)**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China, takes note of the report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) as well as the Report by the Director General (PBC.38/10-IDB.50/10) which also highlights the progress made in the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade.

2. The Group reiterates UNIDO's role as the central coordinator of international industrial cooperation towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the United Nations system. To this end, the Group expresses its appreciation to the Director General of UNIDO, for preparing the UNIDO Africa Strategy, which will give greater impetus to the IDDA 3.

3. The Group appreciates the efforts taken by UNIDO in the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa, which has firmly anchored Africa on a path towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

4. The Group welcomes the African Union Summit on Africa's Industrialization and Economic Diversification scheduled to be held in the Republic of Niger from 20 to 25 November 2022 and hopes it will assist in unlocking the continent's potential by integrating key socio-economic interlinkages and deepen regional integration, as well as interregional cooperation.

5. The Group also acknowledges with appreciation the development assistance provided by UNIDO to enhance the capacities of African countries to benefit from the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution. The Group is confident that UNIDO is uniquely placed to offer strategic support in technology transfer and capacity building through educational and vocational training with enhanced focus on African women and youth.

6. The Group therefore welcomes the expansion of the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) network on the African continent, which has steadily increased to eleven countries, demonstrating the intrinsic value of the network for the benefit of the region and the continent.

Mr. Chair,

7. In order to further enhance economic growth on the African continent, the Group encourages UNIDO to align with the African Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), which also contains targets for sustainable and inclusive growth. The emphasis should be on building systemic resilience through local manufacturing, energy efficiency and through sustainable alternatives, green technology harmonization of standards, and building local and human capacity to respond to both internal and external stresses.

8. The Group stresses the importance of the full implementation of the Joint Road Map and is hopeful that the recruitment process of the IDDA III Secretariat will be finalized to operationalize the IDDA III Joint Roadmap.

9. The Group also encourages UNIDO to continue collaborating with Member States, strategic development partners, other United Nations and inter-governmental agencies, as well as development finance institutions to support the implementation of objectives of the IDDA III. Creating synergies between UNIDO and the African Union would assist in building technical competencies and policy knowledge to develop and implement regional and continental industrial initiatives.

Mr. Chair,

10. To conclude, the Group of 77 and China is confident that UNIDO would contribute to realizing Africa's socio-economic potential through the vehicle of the IDDA III.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Agenda item 12: UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic (Kenya)**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report by Director General on UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and appreciates the great efforts of the Director General and the Secretariat of UNIDO in mitigating the impacts of the pandemic. The Group further commends the substantial support by UNIDO to developing countries affected by the pandemic, particularly the support to Member States to mainstream activities and engagements so as to ensure greater resilience and improved pandemic preparedness.

2. The COVID-19 pandemic which devastated and disrupted global supply chains, had a disproportionately large impact on production, businesses and livelihoods particularly in developing countries and slowed the progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. The Group of 77 and China notes that, through the UNIDO's framework Responding to the crisis: building a better future, the organization responded to the needs of Member States, helping them to manage the pandemic through five areas espoused in the framework, namely: analysis, advice and knowledge sharing; innovation, investment and technology transfer; support to small and medium enterprises; quality standards and local production; and management of medical waste. UNIDO's strategy has contributed to improving methodologies and approaches to COVID-19 recovery towards inclusive and sustainable development.

Mr. Chair,

4. Even though the COVID 19 Pandemic is not over, many countries are opening up albeit cautiously. It is now time to revive socioeconomic sectors through wide-ranging sustainable development strategies. In addition, to jump-start the world economies we need to collectively look at the socioeconomic consequences and lessons learnt, and prioritize investments with large revenue generation and job creation potential to ensure resilient and sustainable recovery.

5. Further, inclusive and sustainable industrial development will remain a key priority for the full economic recovery of economies from the pandemic. In this regard, the Group of 77 and China requests UNIDO to consider the following actions:

a) to continue collaborations and strengthening of international cooperation with other International Organizations to expand its contacts with international donors at the bilateral, regional and global levels, so as to mobilize more financial resources to support developing countries in their effort to recovery from the severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

b) to enhance the technical cooperation programs including material support, capacity building and training in a way that facilitates the digital transformation in developing countries, and promote industrial development through digital technologies in the process of COVID-19 recovery;

c) to continue its collaboration with other Member States, as well as International Organizations in the provision of opportunities for developing countries to access vaccines on equitable and fair conditions and of assistance for the development and production of vaccines.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China statement during the UNIDO Industrial Development Board, 50<sup>th</sup> session, 21-23 November 2022, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of Morocco**

Mr. President, [H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica]

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the IDB a distinguished member of our Group, as well as other members for their election to the bureau of this session. The Group is confident that you will steer the IDB with great skills for its successful and fruitful conclusion.

2. The Group would also like to thank the former President of the 49<sup>th</sup> session, H.E. Ms. Dominika Krois, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Poland, for her leadership during the previous session, and the members of her bureau for their outstanding work in continuing to move the process forward successfully.

3. The Group has listened with great interest to the statement of the Director General Mr. Gerd Müller and, in this regard appreciates his efforts in leading this Organization during the past year and remains fully committed to the work of UNIDO.

The Group will express itself on the following agenda items 3, 4 (a), (b), (c), (d), 7, 8 (a) and (b), 12, 13 and 17.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**Agenda item 3: Annual report of the Director General for 2021: (a) Managing for results: Update on the implementation of the medium-term programme framework, 2022–2025**

Mr. President,

1. The Group takes note of the Annual Report of the Director General which provides an overview of UNIDO's activities, achievements, as well as improvements made and challenges faced by the Organization during the past year and which also constitutes the last report covering the medium-term program framework 2018-2021 and the Program and budgets 2020-2021. The Group wishes to provide the following remarks on the report.

2. The Group reaffirms the high importance it attaches to all initiatives, activities, and programmes implemented or planned by the Organization during the period covered in the report. We encourage the Director General and the Secretariat to continue moving forward, in consultation with Member States, to a full implementation of the Organization's mandate, thereby advancing progress of developing countries and economies in transition on the path to economic and social prosperity.

3. The Group commends the Organization for its technical assistance and capacity building programmes provided to Member States, particularly developing countries, middle income countries and Least Developed Countries. Such efforts must continue with a view to strengthen partnership, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing among Member States as well as with other stakeholders, including through South-South, North-South, and triangular cooperation. In this regard, the Group notes with appreciation that UNIDO's service delivery in terms of technical cooperation implementation in 2021 reached a figure of US\$179.4 million despite the continuous challenges caused by COVID-19.

4. The Group requests the Secretariat to build on the lessons learnt and experiences gained during the pandemic and enhances its resilience to continue these activities in the face of similar challenges in future.



5. The Group appreciates the Organization's continued contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by participating in various activities throughout 2021, including in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development as it reviewed SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

6. The Group notes with satisfaction that UNIDO's portfolio of projects and programmes for future implementation amounted to 575.2 million USD in 2021, with 194.7 million USD mobilized in 2021, and that voluntary contributions for UNIDO development cooperation services have increased by 38% compared to the previous year. This stands testament to UNIDO's relevance as key player among global development organizations. Furthermore, the Group encourages UNIDO to increase the technical cooperation delivery rate continuously.

7. With regard to the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), the Group has followed the implementation of PCPs in Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia, with great interest. The Group also wishes to express great importance to the successful implementation of the Country Programmes (CPs) in Member States. We look forward to the expansion and extension of PCPs and CPs, as well as the introduction of these programmes to other members of the Group, upon their request.

8. The Group of 77 and China welcomes significant progress in the implementation of the Medium Term Programme Framework (MTPF) for 2018-2021 and the application of Integrated Results and Performance Framework (IRPF) in preparation of this report. Such improvement allows for a clearer comparison and analysis of the Organization's achievements both in quantitative and qualitative terms, and therefore should continue in future reports. In this context, the group looks forward to the organization's effective and efficient implementation of the Medium-Term Programme Framework 2022-2025 in order to provide clarifications on how the Organization advances its ISID mandate, its support to Member States, and its contribution to the SDGs.

9. Finally, the Group reaffirms its strong position concerning the need to enhance the equitable geographical distribution in all positions of the Secretariat, including at senior levels and requests the Director General to brief Member States on the reform of the Secretariat structure and its impact on the financial situation and the work of the Organization.

10. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Annual Report for 2021, as submitted in document IDB.50/2-PBC.38/2.

Thank you, Mr. President.

#### **Agenda item 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee**

1. The Group of 77 and China conveys its appreciation to H.E. Mr. Alessandro Cortese of Italy in his capacity as Chair of the 38th session of the Programme and Budget Committee for this Report of the PBC.

2. The Group wishes to recall the points it had raised at the 38th session of the PBC, and reiterates the following:

##### **(a) On the Report of the External Auditor for 2021**

1. Bearing in mind the points it raised on this Agenda Item at the 38th session of the PBC, the Group of 77 and China strongly urges UNIDO to work on addressing the findings of the External Auditor for 2021, regardless of the level of importance and priority assigned to them in the report, as well as to work on closing the remaining unresolved, partially resolved, and still-open findings of the previous and prior audit years, as the Group considers all of these recommendations to be particularly pertinent to ensure that the Organization will function as efficiently and effectively as possible.

**(b) On the Financial situation of UNIDO, including unutilized balances of appropriations**

Mr. President,

1. The Group continues to encourage Member States for the timely payment of their assessed contributions in full, to explore ways for current and former Member States to settle their outstanding assessed contributions, and for the Director General to sustain efforts towards the improvement of the financial situation of UNIDO in order to maintain a healthy and stable financial outlook for the Organization in view of the challenges ahead.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**(c) On the Report by the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues (IWG)**

Mr. President,

1. The Group of 77 and China appreciates the work undertaken by the Informal Working Group on Programme and Budget Committee (IWG) and is particularly thankful to the co-Chairs from Poland and India for their dedication and leadership.

2. The Group believes that the IWG is a valuable platform for both Secretariat and Member States to deliberate and explore possible recommendations on important issues, including the programme and budgets of UNIDO. The Group also believes that the IWG's mandate has the potential to be expanded further to include discussions on emergent issues within the overall mandate and objectives of UNIDO.

3. The Group welcomes the discussion held in the IWG meetings in 2022 especially on the topics of budgetary flexibility, After Service Health Insurance (ASHI), and Independent Oversight Mechanisms among others. The discussion in the IWG meetings has enhanced understanding of these issues for the Member States.

4. The Group is hopeful that the IWG's deliberations will be held more regularly in the coming months and topics like gender equity and personnel matters; efficiency and effectiveness of the programme and budgets implementation, the financial situation of UNIDO etc. will be deliberated by the IWG. The Group also encourages all Member States to actively participate in the discussions on these matters in IWG.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**(d) On the mobilization of financial resources**

Mr. President,

1. The Group maintains the view that a sufficient, assured and predictable funding is vital for UNIDO to effectively deliver its core mandate and activities, and encourages the donor community to continue their contributions to UNIDO's programmable funds, including dedicated trust funds and special purpose funding at the country, regional or global level. The Group also encourages the Director General to continue searching for diverse and innovative funding resources, as well as to work on initiatives aimed at the efficient use of available resources.

2. In this regard, the Group encourages Member States and other funding partners to increase their voluntary contributions to UNIDO, including for the Partnership Trust Fund as well as the Special Account of Voluntary Contributions for Core Activities (SAVCCA) and the Major Capital Investment Fund (MCIF).

3. The Group strongly recommends UNIDO to specifically identify and facilitate the access to funds available from bilateral funding partners, multi-donor trust funds, climate

finances funds, private development cooperation, as well as other development finance institutions.

Thank you, Mr. President.

### **Agenda Item 7: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III)**

Mr. President,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) and would like to assure the Director General and the Secretariat of our support for their efforts to make progress in the implementation of this important Decade. The Group believes that, in light of the current encouraging conditions in the world, to recover from the COVID-19 crisis and return to normal life, UNIDO should focus at the next stage on the developing plans and programs aiming at assisting the affected and developing countries from the effects of this pandemic by adapting the strategies and interventions related to the policy adopted to respond to the crisis. Thus, will enable Member States, including developing countries, to implement necessary measures of immunity and prevent the collapse of their economies.

2. The Group appreciates efforts made by UNIDO, as the central coordinator of international industrial cooperation, in its dedication to Africa in the path of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The Group stresses that it is time to move the agenda of the Third Decade of Industrial Development for Africa, firmly forward in order to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Africa. This was achieved through the involvement of public and private sectors, financial development institutions, the United Nations system as well as bilateral, and multilateral institutions in raising the level of African industrialization.

3. The Group welcomes the extraordinary African Union Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification in Africa, which will be held in Niamey, Niger on 25 November 2022 on the theme “Industrializing Africa: Renewing Commitments for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Economic Diversification” which aims to shed light on Africa’s determination and renewed commitment to industrialization as one of the strategic levers to enhance economic growth and progress of the continent, as reflected in the African Union Agenda 2063 and United Nations Agenda 2030. We hope that this summit will contribute to unleashing the potential of the continent by integrating key social and economic links and strengthening regional cooperation.

4. Furthermore, the Group believes that in parallel to those efforts, it is necessary to continue working on expanding the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) and Country Programmes (CP) in Africa, as well as developing African National Strategies for the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which will allow more opportunities to achieve a broader range of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, enhance intra-African trade, deepen regional integration, and promote structural transformation and inclusive growth.

5. The Group takes note of the update on the recruitment process of the IDDAIII Secretariat, which is instrumental in the implementation of the joint road map. We urge the Secretariat to finalize the recruitment process and further encourage Member States to provide financial support of project funded staff and secondment of experts in order to ensure the full operationalization of the IDDAIII Secretariat.

6. The Group also encourages UNIDO to continue to cooperate with Member States, strategic development partners, United Nations agencies, and other intergovernmental agencies, as well as development financing institutions to support the implementation of the objectives

African Union would help to build technical capacity and policy knowledge for the development and implementation of regional and continental industrial initiatives.

7. To conclude Mr. President, the Group of 77 and China is confident that the Director General and the Secretariat will contribute to advancing the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) to broader horizons and will gain the African continent further progress and growth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

### **Agenda item 8: Climate neutral industry and circular economy: (a) UNIDO activities related to circular economy**

Mr. President,

1. The Group reaffirms the high importance of the potential benefits for countries to transform their economies to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, by engaging with partners to integrate circular economy and Industry 4.0 for more sustainable industrial activity and manufacturing systems, according to national plans and priorities.

2. The Group recognizes that a circular economy offers a promising and essential approach towards some of the most pressing global challenges and can accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5, while advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

3. The Group notes with satisfaction the efforts made by Member States to initiate or adopt policies, regulatory and legal frameworks incorporating elements of a circular economy, including national, subnational and regional strategies, roadmaps and actions plans on circular economy, as well as resource efficiency, product, chemical and waste management targets, laws and regulations.

4. The Group expresses its appreciation for the conduction of a first round of global consultations on Circular Economy from 10-12 May 2021 and for the previous regional preparatory meetings that took place from 13-20 November 2020.

5. The Group appreciates the efforts made by UNIDO, on organizing during September 2022, the regional preparatory meetings for the Member States, and requests the Director General to organize the Global consultations on circular economy in 2023 for experts from Member States and other relevant stake holders, with a view to facilitating exchanges on best practices, emerging innovations and the promotion and adoption of circular economy principles and practices by industries of Member States.

6. The Group is hopeful that the outcome of the global consultations will aim towards attaining an action plan, which will advance the work of UNIDO and its Member States on circular economy, thereby promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

7. The Group appreciates the co-organization at the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on 9 November 2022 of the side event “Accelerating the global circular economy agenda to tackle climate change and foster economic transformation”, by UNIDO and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, during which the concept of circular economy was raised.

Thank you, Mr. President.

## Agenda item 8 (b): UNIDO strategy in response to climate change

Mr. President,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the Director General's report on UNIDO's strategy in response to climate change, and expresses appreciation for the effort exerted by the Secretariat in drafting the strategy, in line with the General Conference resolution GC.19/Res.2.
2. The Group supports that the strategy shall be guided by the low-greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development principle, and enhances the efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of UNIDO's activities in the support of Member States climate priorities related to Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID).

Mr. President,

3. The Group highlights the importance of supporting the needs and priorities of developing countries in line with their right to development and reiterates that the transfer of climate related clean and innovative technologies from the developed to the developing countries is indispensable for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the commitments of the Climate Change Action Plan.
4. The Group recognizes that international cooperation plays a central role in developing national solutions that contributes to stabilization of the global climate system and encourages UNIDO to facilitate the establishment of global and regional alliances and partnerships to accelerate collective climate action, and expand markets for green industrial products.
5. Therefore, the Group believes that the strategy shall aim at enhancing UNIDO's role in arranging an adequate and predictable financing and transfer of clean and innovative technologies to the developing countries, providing a platform for investment mobilization and climate partnerships and fostering South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation to enable the transfer of climate related technologies and innovations that expedite the attainment of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) in the developing countries.

27 |

Mr. President,

6. The Group stresses the importance that the strategy and its action plan, without prejudice to the other UNIDO's core activities, shall:
  - Enhance the existing portfolio of projects and programmes of UNIDO on the productive and sustainable management of resources;
  - Strengthen activities in support of deploying sustainable technologies for electricity generation, primarily in agro industries;
  - Reinforce efforts made by UNIDO's clean energy programmes, including the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers Programme and the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme;
  - Maximize synergies with other priority areas of UNIDO, such as energy, agribusiness development and food security, circular economy and biodiversity;
  - Boost the use of renewable energies, including green hydrogen, to achieve significant emissions reductions;
  - Foster partnerships, cooperation and coordination with various stakeholders, including the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF);
  - Increase the number of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPO) in the developing countries and expand their services for promotion of investment and transfer of technology.

Mr. President,

7. The Group appreciates UNIDO's role in fostering global understanding and raising awareness of the role of industry as a solution provider in achieving the goals of the United



Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement as well as promoting the nexus between climate action and Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID).

8. The Group underscores the importance of climate justice and equitable distribution of resources to mitigate the effects of climate change and to ensure representation, inclusion, and protection of the rights of those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Developing countries have been disproportionately affected by climate change. Therefore, to alleviate the adverse effects and to enable such countries to face climate induced calamity, the available resources may be equitably distributed.

9. In this regard, the Group commends the Director General and his team for the efficient and effective engagement of UNIDO in preparation to COP 27, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 6 to 18 November 2022, and acknowledges the successful participation of UNIDO during the Implementation Summit as well as the relevant Thematic Days of the conference, especially Decarbonisation Day and Energy Day.

10. The Group welcomes the announcement of the new Global Renewable Hydrogen Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 during COP-27 and acknowledges UNIDO's designation as partner for the implementation of the Forum, in line with UNIDO's Global Programme for Green Hydrogen in Industry and UNIDO's vision for a Just transition. It is of prime significance that UNIDO continues its efforts to provide access to state of art technology to developing countries and make this Energy Transition a reality for all.

11. To this end, the Group requests the Secretariat to report to the Member States on the expected role of UNIDO in implementing the relevant outcomes and initiatives announced during COP27, and its reflection on the action plan of the strategy, aiming at the attainment of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) in the developing countries.

12. With these remarks, the Group requests the Secretariat to continue consultations with Member States on UNIDO's strategy in response to Climate Change, as well as its action plan before the next session of the IDB.

Thank you, Mr. President.

## **Agenda item 12: Inclusive and sustainable development in middle-income countries**

Mr President,

1. The Group recognizes that Middle-Income Countries (MICs) consist of a wide range of diverse countries, which have made a contribution to international economic stability, while still facing specific challenges and needs in the context of sustainable development, respectively, in the economic, social and environmental areas.

2. The Group underscores that a robust, green and digital industrial transformation of economies of MICs contributes to sustainable development and is necessary for achieving internationally-agreed development goals, particularly poverty eradication. In that context, the Group requests UNIDO to increase its efforts in supporting middle-income countries in adopting sustainable industrial development policies and practices, in order to mitigate the environmental impact and promote a quantitative leap with regard to the value added to products and companies.

3. The Group acknowledges the work carried out so far by UNIDO in support of MICs and requests the Director General to explore further initiatives towards strengthening its engagement with MICs to support their economic growth and competitiveness. UNIDO is further encouraged to assist stake holders in understanding and assessing the financial needs of MICs and help the latter comprehend how these financial resources can be mobilized, improving their integration into global economy.

Thank you Mr. President.

### **Agenda item 13: UNIDO's operational strategy and implementation plan for LDCs 2022–2031**

Mr. President,

1. The Group of 77 and China welcomes with appreciation UNIDO's continued efforts in advancing LDCs within the context of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, particularly through engaging in various global and regional fora to mobilize technical assistance and financial resources for its projects targeting the LDCs. We reiterate the critical need for realizing expeditiously the renewed and strengthened global partnership for LDCs in order to overcome their structural challenges, eradicate poverty and achieve the agenda for sustainable development.

2. In this regard, the Group takes note of the update on the preparation process of UNIDO's operational strategy for the LDCs 2022–2033 and we further look forward to the endorsement of the operational strategy at the next UNIDO General Conference.

3. The Group equally looks forward to the upcoming Fifth United Nations Conference on the LDCs scheduled to take place in Doha, Qatar from 5 to 9 March 2023 which will build on the deliberations and outcomes of the ninth Ministerial Conference of the LDCs and the Doha Programme of Action 2022-2031 to mainstream its six priority areas in UNIDO's future work through the promotion of resource mobilization and cooperation strategies between donor countries and LDCs.

4. In conclusion, the Group urges the international community to continue supporting UNIDO projects aimed at achieving the targets for the LDCs as well as contribute towards the comprehensive and timely implementation of the operational strategy subsequent to its adoption.

Thank you, Mr. President.

### **Agenda item 17: Personnel matters**

Mr. President,

1. The Group of 77 and China commends UNIDO for its continued efforts to improve personnel-related issues in UNIDO and encourages it to uphold the United Nations principles. In this regard, the Group reaffirms its strong position concerning the need to enhance the equitable geographical distribution in all positions of the Secretariat, including at senior levels.

2. The Group requests the Director General to brief Member States on the reform of the Secretariat structure and its impact on the financial situation and the work of the Organization, taking stock of the initial assessment of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee (OAC) on the effect of these reforms on staff morale.


3. The Group takes note of the conclusion of the disciplinary process in respect of a confirmed allegation on sexual harassment and supports the full implementation of UNIDO's Gender Parity Action Plan (2018-2023), addressing sexual harassment and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse within the Organization. The Group welcomes Director General's zero-tolerance policy in this regard.

4. The Group welcomes the 2020 UNIDO Merit Awards exercise based on the achievements and contributions of UNIDO personnel to its mandate as well as its strategic and management objectives and priorities, in particular those who actively engaged in the Organization's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. The Group requests the Director General to continue proactively addressing UNIDO staff welfare, including conditions of service applicable to the professionals and after-service health insurance (ASHI) issues.

Thank you, Mr. President.





**INTERNATIONAL  
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY  
(IAEA)**



**G-77 AND CHINA STATEMENT DURING THE IAEA MARCH BOARD, 7-11 MARCH  
2022 DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. AZZEDDINE FARHANE, AMBASSADOR,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

**Agenda item 2: Nuclear and Radiation Safety: Nuclear Safety Review 2022**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group expresses its gratitude to the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Safety Review 2022, as contained in document GOV/2022/3. The Group thanks the Director General for his introductory statement, as well as Deputy Director General Lydie Evraud for her remarks and for the technical briefing offered to Member States on 11 February 2022.

Mr. Chair,

2. The Group is pleased to note the Agency's continued assistance to Member States resulted in some progress in the area of nuclear safety in 2021, and that the analysis of Agency activities shows a continued commitment of Member States to strengthening national legal and governmental infrastructure despite the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. While the Group reaffirms that the responsibility for nuclear safety within a State rests entirely with that Member State we reiterate our belief that the Agency has a central role in coordinating international efforts to strengthen Nuclear Safety globally, by providing assistance through expertise and advice to Member States, upon request and through promoting Nuclear Safety standards globally.

4. The Group recalls the adoption, in February 2015, of the "Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety", which aims to strengthen nuclear safety worldwide through agreed principles to guide the Contracting Parties, as appropriate, in the implementation of the objective of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) with the focus on preventing accidents with radiological consequences and by mitigating such consequences should they occur. We call on the Agency to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in the implementation of the principles of the Vienna Declaration.

5. The Group recognizes the Agency's important role in developing Safety Standards and welcomes the issuance of seven Specific Safety Guides, the endorsement of ten draft Safety Guides and the approval of three Safety Guides document preparation profiles for Safety guides in 2020.

6. The Group reiterates the need for the Agency to uphold the principles of equitable geographical representation, workforce diversity and gender mainstreaming in all its activities. In this regard, the Group emphasizes the importance of the Agency continuing to support the participation of experts from developing countries, with a special focus on gender mainstreaming, especially in the Safety Standards Committees, the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee, as well as the Interface Group.

7. The Group takes note that the report covers trends and priorities for all the nuclear safety related topics. In this regard, the Group would like the Secretariat to clarify their methodology in identifying the trends and determining the priorities in future Nuclear Safety Reviews.

8. The Group welcomes the Agency's flexibility in implementing its statutory mandate and priorities during the ongoing pandemic and welcomes the priority given to ensuring the continued implementation of safety standards globally, despite the limitations brought on by the pandemic. In this regard, the Group notes/looks forward to an update of the report on The Operation, Safety and Security of Nuclear and Radiation Facilities and Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic as contained in document GC(65)/INF/9.

9. The Group notes with concern that the Agency's analysis of the survey on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on regulatory activities for the safety of radiation sources suggests that many regulation function have diminished and there is an increased risk of radioactive sources becoming orphaned.

10. The Group further notes that while the Commission on Safety Standards has concluded that reviewing the safety standards in light of the COVID-19 pandemic is not a priority, the Agency will continue collecting feedback from Member States, using the Nuclear Safety and Security Online User Interface (NSS-OUI) platform which will then be considered when individual safety standards are reviewed and revised in future.

11. The Group expresses its appreciation for the ongoing work on the development of guidance on the management of radionuclides in food and drinking water in non-emergency situations, requests the Secretariat to continue work to develop a technical document to set out radionuclide activity concentration values for non-food commodities, in consultation with Member States and relevant international organizations. We also welcome the growing awareness created through Agency webinars.

12. The Group recognizes the importance of and appreciates the assistance provided by the Agency to its Member States, upon request, in strengthening their national nuclear safety architecture, for both power and non-power application including regulatory infrastructure for nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and in the field of emergency preparedness and response.

13. Recognizing that around twenty-nine Member States, many of which are members of the Group, are at different stages of initiating new nuclear power programmes, we encourage the Agency to increase support to such embarking Member States and recognize the importance of strengthening and expanding nuclear safety standards in this regard.

14. The Group wishes to emphasize that capacity-building, including the development of human resources, expert training and the up-scaling of knowledge and capabilities are key to the establishment, safety and sustainability of any nuclear program. The Group has also noted that Member States continue to request support regarding their knowledge management programmes, as well as in the development and strengthening of national capacity-building programmes. Therefore, it is essential that the IAEA continue to provide such assistance, upon request, on national, regional and international levels, to developing countries in building their expertise in the relevant technical areas.

15. The Group highlights the importance it attaches to the development of a safety culture. In this regard, we note that an increasing number of Member States are requesting

assistance in further developing their leadership and management programmes for safety and continuous improvement, including safety culture assessments and that the Agency will assist Member States in their efforts to develop, foster and sustain safety culture.

16. In view of the increasing use of radiation and nuclear material and technologies, in Member States, the Group notes that there is a growing need for assistance in strengthening regulatory oversight, education and training programmes, guidance documents, peer reviews and advisory services from the Agency for the entire lifecycle management. The Group encourages the Agency to continue to provide the requisite assistance, upon request, to Member States in these important areas and welcomes the regular organization by the Agency of national, regional, and international workshops, webinars and training courses for Member States on all relevant issues. We also welcome the fact that the Agency has been able to adapt its support during the pandemic by using virtual and hybrid format for these events.

17. In view of the increasing interest of Member States in small and medium sized or modular reactors (SMRs) on account of their potential contribution, in the fight against climate change, for States which choose to have a nuclear power programme and bearing in mind the need to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, the Group takes note of the development of a new interregional TC project that aims to support Member States build their capacity on SMRs and calls on the Agency to continue supporting interested countries worldwide in the development and deployment of this emerging nuclear power technology. In this regard, the Group welcomes that the Agency is developing the Platform on Small Modular Reactors and their Applications, to ensure a cross-departmental approach and to provide the full array of Agency support and expertise on all aspects of the development, deployment and oversight of SMRs.

18. The Group also notes with concern the reference made in the Report to applying a holistic approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs. The Group underlines the need for consultations with Member States on this concept while taking into consideration their various positions and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the GC resolutions.

19. The Group appreciates that in 2021 the Agency conducted 32 peer review and advisory services across all safety areas including safety of nuclear installations, research reactors, fuel cycle facilities as well as regulatory effectiveness, infrastructure development programmes, and ageing management, among others. The Group also encourages the Agency to enhance the participation of experts from the developing countries in conducting such peer reviews and advisory services.

20. Regarding the Radiation Protection of Patients, Workers and the Public, the Group notes that the Agency will assist Member States in their efforts to apply the principles of justification and optimization in circumstances where actions are being considered to reduce radiation exposure, such as in medical exposure and protection of patients and workers. The Group urges the Agency to continue to assist Member States in providing guidance, as well as in strengthening their processes for communicating of radiation risk to the public in planned and existing exposure situations and during an emergency.

Mr. Chair,

21. The Group notes that Member States continue to show interest in the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network and IAEA CONNECT platforms, which allow for the exchange of information and various materials and publications among Member States. The Group reiterates that knowledge networks should always remain a core component of the nuclear safety capacity-building initiatives with the support of the Agency. The Group appreciates the Agency's continued support to regional networks, which include the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators, the Asian Nuclear Safety Network, the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa, and the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies, as well as to thematic networks such as the Small Modular Reactor Regulator's Forum.

22. The Group is of the view that strengthening global nuclear safety depends on the full cooperation among and participation of Member States and relevant stakeholders. Vendors of nuclear technologies also have a responsibility to provide to users access to all information, know-how and tools necessary for safe operation.

23. The Group expresses its support for the Agency's work in continuing to build upon the 2011 Action Plan and Member States' experience in its implementation, as well as the IAEA Report on the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident, and the principles in the Vienna Declaration and take them into consideration for defining its programme of work in close consultations with Member States. The Group requests the Secretariat to report periodically to the Board of Governors, in accordance with section 1 of Resolution GC.(65)/RES/8.

24. The Group takes note of the organization of the International Conference on a Decade of Progress after Fukushima-Daiichi: Building on the Lessons Learned to Further Strengthen Nuclear Safety in November 2021. We also note that the conference focused on lessons learned, experiences shared, results, and achievements from actions undertaken by national, regional and international communities following the accident, as well as identifying ways to further strengthen nuclear safety globally.

25. The Group welcomes improvements to the websites of the Agency's Unified System for Information Exchange in Incidents and Emergencies (USIE) and the International Radiation Monitoring Information System (IRMIS) with enhanced user-friendly and security features, tools and functionalities, as well as their increased usage. The Group notes that the number of published Emergency Preparedness and Response Information Management System (EPRIMS) self-assessment modules increased in 2021 and that the regular analysis of the new information uploaded on EPRIMS allowed the Agency to review the progress made in technical cooperation projects and to identify global trends in national EPR arrangements based on Agency safety standards.. Despite the meaningful work done by the Agency in the field of emergency preparedness and response, the Group notes that more work needs to be done. It, therefore, encourages continued cooperation and coordination between the Secretariat and interested Member States, in this regard.

26. The Group welcomes that based on the outcomes of a virtual technical meeting on Management of Regulatory Oversight for the Operation of a First Nuclear Power Plant in June 2021, the Agency is developing a TECDOC, provisionally entitled Management of Regulatory Oversight for a First Nuclear Power Plant.

25. The Group attaches high importance to transport safety, and appreciates the involvement of the Secretariat in international efforts to discuss issues related to the



transport of radioactive material. The Group supports continued efforts by the Agency to address problems related to denials of and delays in the shipment of radioactive material, particularly shipment by air and urges Member States to facilitate the transport of radioactive material, and to identify, if they have not done so, a national focal point on denials on shipment of radioactive materials to achieve a satisfactory and timely resolution of this issue. In this regard, the Group welcomes the Technical Meeting on “Denials of Shipment — Issues and Solutions” held in March 2021 and looks forward to the work of the Denial of Shipment Working Group, which will begin meeting in 2022.

26. The Group welcomes the growth in the number of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Joint Convention). In this regard, the Group encourages the Agency to continue preparations for the hosting in Vienna of the postponed 7<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting of the Joint Convention as well as the Joint 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, with the physical presence and active participation of Contracting Parties.

Mr. Chair,

27. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Nuclear Safety Review 2022, as contained in document GOV/2022/3.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

### **Agenda item 3: Strengthening the Agency’s activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications: Nuclear Technology Review 2022**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Technology Review 2022, contained in document GOV/2022/2. The Group also wishes to thank DDG Dr. Najat Mokhtar and DDG Dr. Mikhail Chudakov for introducing this agenda item and for the technical briefing provided to delegations on 11 February 2022.

2. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China under this agenda item. The full statement will be available online.

3. The Group attaches great importance to the significant contributions that nuclear technologies can make towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and their role in food security and safety; nutrition and human health, including disease prevention and control; animal health and production; environmental protection; water resources management; as well as in other fields related to the use of radioisotopes and radiation. These, among others, are areas where nuclear, nuclear-derived and isotopic techniques, are beneficial in supporting sustainable socio-economic development in many countries, which requires more efforts to tackle common challenges to promote post COVID recovery for achieving stronger, greener and healthier global development.

4. The Group reaffirms that the Agency, in accordance with Article II of the Statute, has a leading role to play in the promotion of these techniques among interested Member States, and encourages it to continue to provide its valuable support, including further promoting active roles of developing countries in contributing towards the development of



equipment and techniques that can meet the needs of many Member States, while taking into account equitable geographical distribution and gender balance.

5. The Group stresses that the work done by the Agency in nuclear power and nuclear applications highlights the need to increase the transfer of nuclear technology and the sharing of nuclear knowledge, expertise and lessons learned to developing countries, including embarking and newcomer countries, to enhance their capabilities and thus contribute to maximize the benefit of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

6. In terms of Nuclear Power Technology, the group takes note with appreciation of the evolving global trends in this field as highlighted in details in the report, including, inter alia, the development of Small and Medium Modular Reactors, advanced large Water Cooled Reactors, New Generations of Nuclear Power Plants, as well as various research reactors, other aspects the nuclear fuel cycle, and non-electric applications. These developments are yet another important testament to the need to increase the transfer of nuclear technology and the sharing of nuclear knowledge, expertise and lessons learned to developing countries, including embarking and newcomer countries, to enhance their capabilities and thus contribute to maximize the benefit of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Group urges the Agency to continue to provide training and education, and to support national capacity-building efforts and to further support coordinated research activities, in this regard.

7. The Group acknowledges the positive contribution of nuclear power in climate change mitigation, energy security and its non-climatic environmental and socio-economic benefits. These are some of the important reasons why many countries, particularly developing countries, intend to introduce nuclear power in the coming decades, or to expand existing programmes. The Group thus urges the Agency to continue to assist interested Member States to analyze energy options and to support their capabilities to introduce nuclear power, while maintaining its leading role in the promotion of the transfer and development of technology and knowledge related to peaceful nuclear applications, including nuclear power and the nuclear fuel cycle.

8. The Group appreciates the Agency's participation at the 2021 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) recognizing that the role nuclear technology can play in both effectively mitigating and adapting to the increasingly severe consequences of the climate crisis. The Group encourages the Agency's continued engagement in high-level dialogue on nuclear energy and nuclear techniques and applications at COP27, to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in 2023.

9. The Group also appreciates the formation of the Technical Working Group on Nuclear Power in Low Carbon Energy Systems (TWG-NPLCES) to promote the role of nuclear power in the fight against climate change.

10. The Group commends the Agency for establishing the COVID-19 Nuclear Power Plant Operating Experience Network (COVID – 19 NPP OPEX) to facilitate the sharing of information on measures taken to mitigate the pandemic and its impact on Nuclear Power Plants. The Group also notes that three Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions were hosted in 2021 and one was postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19 pandemic. INIR and related missions provide a useful service in extending cooperation to Member

States and the Group encourages the Agency to utilize experts from developing countries in these missions.

11. The Group reiterates its interest in the work of various technical working groups under the auspices of the Agency in the development of nuclear technology and in the dissemination of knowledge to Member States, inter alia, through Coordinated Research Projects, Collaborating Centres and regional cooperative agreements and requests the Secretariat to continue its support.

Mr. Chair,

12. Accelerators and research reactors continue to play an important role in building strong basic capabilities in the nuclear field, and in supporting related education, training and research activities in Member States. The Group appreciates the support provided by the Secretariat in its coordination of projects supporting research, hands-on training and experimental work in the field of accelerators, and encourages it to continue to provide such support, especially by making use of built-in capacity in many developing countries.

13. The Group highlights the importance of research reactors to interested Member States and their utilization for research and various applications, including education, training, research and isotope production, and calls for enhanced international cooperation to maximize their efficient use while noting that the efforts in this direction continue to grow. The Group urges the Agency to assist interested Member States that are building or planning to build new research reactors as they have shown that they remain indispensable for providing radioisotopes for medicine and industry, services for cultural heritage and environmental studies all whilst making a strategic contribution to education and training.

14. The Group welcomes the continued international collaboration, supported by the IAEA, to promote and enhance the utilization of research reactors for nuclear capacity building, including education and training, among other areas. The Group encourages the Agency to continue its work of facilitation of regional networks and coalitions to help fostering international cooperation and enabling research reactors to expand their stakeholder and user communities.

Mr. Chair,

15. The Group attaches great value to the role of the Agency's Nuclear Applications laboratories at Seibersdorf, which have assisted Member States in enhancing their access to the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies since 1962. The ability of the laboratories to provide timely assistance to Member States in the early-detection and diagnosis of COVID-19 is a testament to the invaluable work that these laboratories continue to do. The Group appreciates the support already given by Member States to the ReNuAL and ReNuAL Plus projects, and as the project enters its final phase, ReNuAL 2, the Group calls on all Member States, in a position to do so, to contribute.

16. The Group values the Agency's assistance to Member States, especially to developing countries, in the field of medical applications, including through the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy 8 (PACT). The Group is appreciative of the Agency's contribution to improving the overall cancer management worldwide, including, the diagnosis, treatment and control of cancer through, inter alia, the development and application of nuclear techniques. The Group notes that these nuclear techniques play an important role in fighting the global cancer epidemic. The Group also takes note of

advances in positron emission tomography (PET), targeted radionuclide therapy, isotope-based theranostics and production of medical radioisotopes. In this regard, the Group appreciates the launch of the Rays of Hope initiative launched on the margins of the African Union's Summit on 4 February 2022 aimed at supporting developing Member States, beginning with those in Africa in providing their people access to diagnostic and radiotherapy facilities, equipment as well as capacity-building for cancer control.

17. On Food and Agriculture, the Group notes with interest, developments in the use of radiolabeling approaches to trace and measure antimicrobial substances. The Group takes note that the FAO/IAEA Center of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture in 2022 will for the first time venture into the field of astrobiology and space breeding.

18. The Group welcomes the work of the Joint IAEA-FAO Programme in strengthening the capacity of Member States in the detection, characterization, surveillance and control of transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases such as African Swine Fever, Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Ebola, Zika, Avian Influenza, MERS, SARS and COVID-19, through the use of radioisotopes and radiation technology. The Group appreciates the capacity building of some of the designated Zodiac National Laboratories (ZNLs) under the IAEA Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) project. Strengthening of the remaining designated ZNLs in need is essential for the success of the ZODIAC project.

Mr. Chair,

19. Recognizing the benefits and opportunities offered by the enhanced use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning and deep learning techniques in nuclear sciences and applications, the Group appreciates that the Agency is seeking to open dialogue and collaboration to promote the application of AI to nuclear science, techniques and technologies and encourages the Agency to promote technology transfer and knowledge sharing in this field, in order to better support its Member States.

20. The Group welcomes the work undertaken by the Agency in environmental protection, in particular the NUClear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) initiative, launched in 2021, which builds on the Agency's efforts to deal with plastic pollution through recycling using radiation technology and marine monitoring using isotopic tracing techniques.

21. The Group recalls the successful International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, co-chaired by Costa Rica and Japan, in November 2018 and its Ministerial Declaration. The Group looks forward to the commencement of consultations on the follow up International Ministerial Conference in 2023.

22. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Nuclear Technology Review 2021, as contained in document GOV/2022/2.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China Statement during the IAEA June Board of Governors, 6-10 June 2022, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Farhane Azzeddine, Permanent Representative of Morocco**

**Agenda item 2: The Annual Report for 2021**

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to thank the Director General for his introductory statement and the Secretariat for preparing the draft of the Annual Report for 2021 as contained in document GOV/2022/8 and for the informal briefing provided on 17 May 2022.

**Nuclear Technology**

2. The Group notes that nuclear power remains an important option not only for countries with existing nuclear programs, but also for developing countries with growing energy needs and that five new nuclear reactors were connected to the grid in 2021 and that the Agency revised up its high case projection of the potential growth of nuclear power capacity for the first time since 2011. The Group encourages the Agency to continue providing the necessary support to Member States interested in launching and expanding their nuclear power programmes.

3. The Group appreciates the Agency's participation at the 2021 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) recognizing that the role nuclear technology can play in both effectively mitigating and adapting to the increasingly severe consequences of the climate crisis. The Group encourages the Agency's continued engagement in high-level dialogue on nuclear energy and nuclear techniques and applications at COP27, to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in 2023.

4. The Group attaches high importance to the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO), as a relevant forum gathering technology holders and users with the aim of achieving innovations in nuclear reactors and fuel cycles, while reiterating its call for continued support for INPRO from the Regular Budget. The Group appreciates the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> INPRO Dialogue Forums held in 2021, which allowed participants to explore the importance of partnerships and cooperation for sustainable nuclear development and deployment as well as the role of institutional innovations in enhancing public acceptance of nuclear power. The Group also values the support provided to Member States upon their request through the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Group welcomes the work of the Agency in the application of nuclear technologies and, specifically, the assistance provided to Member States in this regard. Nuclear technologies and applications make an important contribution to sustainable development and, therefore, the Group welcomes the Agency's continued assistance to Member States, based on their national priorities, despite the continued challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. The Group reiterates that there is a fundamental need to enhance the transfer of nuclear technology to and sharing of nuclear knowledge with developing countries and welcomes that Nuclear knowledge development remained an area of focus in 2021. The Group appreciates that

the Agency completed a 17-year project of digitizing nuclear information, which is now available in the International Nuclear Information System (INIS). As preservation of nuclear knowledge continues to be a high priority for many Member States, the Group requests the Secretariat to continue providing assistance to interested Member States in capacity building and nuclear knowledge management, including through the Knowledge Management Assist Visits (KMAVs) and Regional Nuclear Education Networks in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

7. The Group attaches great value to Small and Medium Sized or Modular Reactors (SMRs), their potential benefit as a source of power generation, especially for Member States with limited electrical grids, their successful use in energy planning and seawater desalination, taking into account their demonstrated overall cost-effectiveness. In this regard, the Group welcomes the establishment of the Agency-wide Platform on SMRs and their Applications to provide 'one-stop shop' support for Member States and stakeholders including through an SMR Coordination and Resource Portal for Information Exchange, Outreach and Networking.

Mr. Chair,

8. The Group welcomes the various activities of the Agency in the field of nuclear data, research reactors and accelerator technologies. The Group reiterates its full support for the activities of the Agency in nuclear science, and urges the Secretariat to enhance its assistance on developing nuclear science application capabilities of Member States as a tool for their technological and economic development.

9. The Group highlights the important role of the various applications of nuclear and isotopic techniques in the field of food and agriculture, human health, management of water resources, environment, industry as well as radioisotope and radiation technology. The Group requests the Secretariat to enhance its efforts to strengthen national capabilities of Member States, particularly developing countries, in these areas.

10. The Group attaches great value to the role of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf, which have assisted Member States in enhancing their access to the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies since 1962. The ability of the laboratories to provide timely assistance to Member States in the early-detection and diagnosis of COVID19 is a testament to the invaluable work that these laboratories continue to do. The Group appreciates the support already given by Member States to the ReNuAL and ReNuAL+ projects. As the project enters its final phase, ReNuAL 2, the Group appreciates their continued support and calls on other Member States, in a position to do so, to contribute as well.

11. The Group continues to support the work of the Agency in the field of Food and Agriculture, specifically in combating multiple outbreaks of transboundary zoonotic and animal diseases, the development of the Sterile Insect Technique, addressing soil erosion and enhancing water resources management. The Group supports the Zoonotic Diseases Integrated Action (ZODIAC) and welcomes that around 150 Member States have designated ZODIAC National Coordinators and more than 120 ZODIAC National Laboratories in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe. The Group takes note of the IAEA Scientific Forum on preparing for Zoonotic Outbreaks: the Role of Nuclear Science, held in September 2021.

12. The Group welcomes the work undertaken by the Agency in environmental protection, in particular the NUClear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) initiative, launched in 2021, which builds on the Agency's efforts to deal with plastic pollution through recycling using radiation technology and marine monitoring using isotopic tracing techniques. The



Group notes with appreciation the regional round tables organized by the Secretariat for implementation of this initiative.

13. In the field of human health, the Group welcomes the various activities of the Agency in the field nutrition, biodosimetry and advanced radiotherapy technologies. The Group also commends the work of the Agency, especially in the prevention, control and fight against cancer. The Group notes the activities undertaken in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). In this regard, the Group would like to express its support for the Rays of Hope initiative aimed at supporting developing Member States, beginning with those in Africa, in providing their people access to diagnostic and radiotherapy facilities, equipment as well as capacity-building for cancer control.

14. The Group recognizes the unique role that the Agency plays in enhancing the capabilities of Member States in using isotope hydrology for assessment and management of their water resources, including characterization of climate change impacts on water availability.

15. The Group also wishes to highlight the important role of the Agency in radioisotope production and the development of radiation technologies.

### **Nuclear Safety and Security**

Mr. Chair,

16. The Group reiterates its appreciation for the IAEA's continuing efforts to promote nuclear safety worldwide and welcomes the diverse activities undertaken in 2021. The Group reaffirms that the responsibility for nuclear safety within a State rests entirely with that Member State and that the IAEA can provide upon request assistance through expertise and advice to Member States. We reiterate our support for the Agency's central role, in coordinating international efforts to strengthen Nuclear Safety globally, and in promoting Nuclear Safety standards in line with Article III of its Statute. The Group remains of the view that nuclear safety should not hamper the promotion, transfer and utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

17. The Group appreciates the Agency's efforts in conducting capacity building activities across its programme of work for nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and emergency preparedness and response, as well as in strengthening global, regional and national safety networks and forums. The Group also recognizes the Agency's important role in developing Safety Standards and welcomes the issuance of 7 publications in the Safety Guides series in 2021.

18. The Group attaches great value to the IAEA's assistance to developing countries embarking on nuclear power programmes and encourages the Agency to continue its support to Member States, upon request, in developing and strengthening their nuclear safety infrastructure. In this context, the Group values the Agency's support, provided to Member States, upon their request, through the peer review and advisory services conducted in 2021 across all safety areas. The Group also encourages the Agency to enhance the participation of experts from the developing countries in conducting such peer reviews and advisory services.

19. The Group takes note of the International Conference on the Development of Preparedness for National and International Emergency Response (EPR2021) and the International Conference on the Safe and Secure Transport of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials in 2021.



20. The Group notes the Agency's continued efforts in 2021 to contribute to global efforts to achieve effective nuclear security. The Group reiterates its view that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, and that nuclear security should not be a condition or pre-requisite for technical cooperation projects. The Group reiterates its principled position that nuclear security considerations should not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, the production, transfer and use of nuclear and other radioactive material, the exchange of nuclear material for peaceful purposes and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and should not undermine the established priorities of the Agency's technical cooperation programme.

21. The Group welcomes the work underway to establish a Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre at its Seibersdorf laboratories through extrabudgetary funds and appreciates contributing Member States. The Group notes that the Centre will complement and fill gaps in training capabilities that do not commonly exist among institutions in States and will further enhance Member States' capacity building, upon request.

22. With respect to the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025, the Group wishes to reiterate that given the significance and value of the NSPs, this strategic document must always be the product of a thorough consultation process led by Member States.

### **Technical Cooperation**

Mr. Chair,

23. The Group believes that the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries is the main statutory function of the Agency and that the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is the main delivery vehicle for this statutory function.

24. Therefore, the Group reiterates its call for strengthening the promotional activities of the IAEA, including Technical Cooperation and Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs), through the provision of sufficient, assured and predictable resources, so as to properly respond to the increasing number of Member States and their growing needs, as well as to enhance the use of nuclear technology for sustainable development.

25. The Group further notes the activities undertaken in relation to the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) and appreciates the targeted outreach to traditional and non-traditional donors in mobilizing direct and indirect resources for unfunded cancer-related activities in Member States. The Group is likewise pleased to note that the conduct of 4 Integrated Missions of PACT Review missions during 2021. Broad access to nuclear medicine, radiation medicine techniques and radiotherapy remains a challenge and the Group urges the IAEA to collaborate with relevant international organizations, in order to continue building capacities in developing countries.

26. Cooperation and collaboration with relevant organizations within the UN system remains important in allowing for increased access to nuclear science and technology for Member States, in support of their national and development priorities. In this regard, the Group notes with appreciation the existing, extended and new Partnership Agreements and Practical Arrangements related to technical cooperation.

27. In conclusion, the Group recalls the successful International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, co-chaired by Costa Rica and Japan, in November 2018 and its

Ministerial Declaration. The Group reaffirms the importance Member States attach to the Agency's work in promoting nuclear science and technology and its applications and their delivery through technical cooperation programme. In this regard, the Group looks forward to the commencement of consultations on the follow up International Ministerial Conference in 2023.

27. With these comments, the Group takes note of the Agency's Annual Report for 2021 contained in document GOV/2022/8.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

### **Agenda item 3: Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities Technical Cooperation Report for 2021**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation, Mr. Liu, for his introductory remarks and for preparing the Technical Cooperation Report as well as the informal technical briefing provided on 17 May 2022.

2. The Group of 77 and China believes that the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries is the main statutory function of the Agency and that the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is the main delivery vehicle for this statutory function.

3. The Group welcomes the continued success of the Technical Cooperation activities in the different regions, despite the continued difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and commends the Secretariat for its support and assistance to Member States.

4. The Group reiterates that the TC Programme is a shared responsibility and that its success depends on the combined efforts of the Department of Technical Cooperation, other relevant departments of the Agency and Member States. These efforts are crucial for the planning and successful implementation of the Programme, which should be tailored to respond to the evolving needs and priorities of individual Member States, in particular the developing countries. Such an approach would also be in accordance with Section 2, Operative Paragraph 4 of resolution GC(65)/RES/10, dealing with assistance to developing and least developed countries. The Group calls on the Secretariat to continue making every effort in addressing the challenges facing LDCs in the peaceful application of nuclear energy through the Technical Cooperation Programme, as set out in GOV/INF/2016/12.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Group notes that the IAEA regional programmes are an essential tool to promote Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), foster the exchange of best practices, and promote networks amongst member states. The Group appreciates the Secretariat's support in this regard, and requests that the Secretariat continues its efforts to enhance the effective and efficient management of regional programmes. The Group also supports the Secretariat's efforts to enhance the effectiveness of TC programme delivery to new Member States, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through the development of focused capacity building support that are tailored towards individual member states development needs.

6. The Group takes note of the continued efforts undertaken by the Secretariat in 2021 with the purpose of enhancing efficiency in the delivery of TC projects, including through linking the content of the Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) to national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS), in accordance with priorities and needs identified by member states.

7. The Group would also like to recall the established process of the medium-term national planning mechanisms, such as CPFs regional profiles and strategic frameworks through which the needs of Member States are identified and defined. Any changes to the established TC programmatic approach by the Secretariat should be considered in close consultation with Member States.

8. The Group takes note of the continued efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the TC Programme. In this context, the Group reiterates that the present guidelines and criteria as contained in INFCIRC/267 for the screening of TC project proposals, programme implementation and subsequent evaluation are sufficient and effective.

Mr. Chair,

9. The Group positively notes that the rate of attainment on payments to the TC Fund (TCF) for 2021, as of 31 December 2021, was 95.2%, which is considered as the second highest rate of attainment over the course of the last 10 years. The Group commends the efforts exerted by the Secretariat in this regard, and emphasizes the importance of the TCF in the successful implementation of the TC Programme and reiterates its call on all Member States to pay their contributions in accordance with the indicative scale of assessment in full and on time. The Group also requests the Secretariat to work closely with Member States to improve the rate of attainment on pledges and payments to the TCF.

10. The Group notes with concern that despite the increasing number of developing countries receiving technical cooperation from the Agency, the resources for the TC Programme, both financial and human, have not increased in tandem. This situation becomes all the more striking when comparing the TCF to the funds available for the non-promotional activities. The Group reiterates its request to the Secretariat to include in future reports the details of the increasing number of participants in the TC Programme and increasing demands over the past several years.

11. The Group remains concerned that the resources available to the TC Programme are still not sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP) to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute, as called for by the General Conference repeatedly in its resolutions on Technical Cooperation. The Group also reiterates its call for sufficient human resources and adequate funding to be assigned to Major Programme 6, in order to facilitate the successful delivery of the TC Programme in light of the growing demand.

12. The Group thanks the Secretariat for its commitment to ensuring the continued delivery of the TC Programme during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the assistance provided through inter-regional project INT0098. The Group appreciates all the contributions made to the Agency's COVID-19 related assistance including the provision of testing and other relevant equipment for the detection of COVID-19. The Group also appreciates the efforts of the Director General and the Secretariat to adapt and ensure the effective delivery of the TC Programme as much as possible and in consultation with Member States, in spite of the current difficult situation.

13. The Group further appreciates the extrabudgetary contributions by Member States, the private sector and other non-traditional donors to the TC Programme. In addition, the Group notes the decision of some countries to participate in the government cost-sharing mechanism. While appreciating the extrabudgetary contributions that were made by those in a position to do so, the Group notes that extrabudgetary funding in 2021 represented 27.2% of the TC funding, down from 52% in 2020. This underscores that extrabudgetary contributions cannot be a reliable source of funding. The Group, therefore, remains concerned about the increased reliance on extrabudgetary contributions for the delivery of the TC Programme and its potential impact on the funding being sufficient, assured and predictable. Extrabudgetary contributions therefore should not and cannot replace the TC Fund, which is the primary funding mechanism essential to a stable and strategic TC Programme.

Mr. Chair,

14. The Group takes note of the important contribution the Agency's TC Programme could make to the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and its SDGs as well as to the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The Group welcomes the Secretariat's efforts to help Member States to benefit from the synergies between the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the TC Programme, while recognizing their specificities. The Group maintains that alignment with the SDGs should not constitute a limitation or condition for TC projects, nor a tool for their reprioritization. The Group also holds the view that the SDGs places a greater demand for additional resources to address the increasing socio-economic challenges and to meet the developmental needs of developing countries.

15. In this regard, the Group also reiterates its strong position that TC should not be subject to any form of conditionality, which is inconsistent with the statute of the IAEA and the guiding principles and operating rules as contained in INFCIRC/267 and requests the Secretariat to continue to adhere to them.

Mr. Chair,

16. The Group appreciates the continued efforts of the Secretariat to enhance the quality of the TC Programme by providing support to the Member States to ensure that the projects for the next TC cycle are relevant, effective, sustainable, have measurable and attainable objectives, and offer greater opportunities for social and economic benefits and long-term national development impact. While acknowledging the limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group remains of the view that technical meetings on virtual platforms cannot be a substitute for face-to-face meetings, which allow for a far more enriching interaction and productive outcomes, especially with regard to training and capacity-building programmes. We therefore, strongly urge that, as the pandemic conditions improve, efforts should be made to revert to the norm of organizing physical events.

17. The Group reiterates its call on the Agency to address long-standing obstacles such as delays and denials of equipment, as well as travel and visa restrictions arbitrarily imposed by a number of Member States, which negatively impact programme delivery and the rate of implementation.

Mr. Chair,

18. The Group reiterates that alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDFs) should not be made a requirement for TC projects. However,

the Group takes note of the Agency's increasing visibility within the UN system which may allow the Agency to identify linkages between the goals and objectives of the CPFs and, where appropriate, those of the UNSDF in order to facilitate close coordination with UN agencies to address national priorities in sustainable development.

19. In this context, the Group stresses the vital role of the National Liaison Officers (NLOs) in TC project design and implementation. The continued strengthening of the NLOs' management capabilities, together with the strengthening of the role of the Programme Management Officer (PMO) and the coordination with the Permanent Missions in Vienna, would be essential to enhance country programme delivery. In this regard, the Group expresses its appreciation for the Agency's support in strengthening the role of the NLO, in particular through the bilateral and virtual NLO meetings. The Group welcomes the inclusion of gender as a consideration in TC project design. Moreover, the Group supports the Agency's efforts to expand female participation in the TC programme, including through encouraging Member States to nominate female NLOs, meeting and workshop participants, fellows and scientific visitors, and counterparts.

20. The Group underlines the importance of cancer control in developing countries and urges the IAEA to continue building capacities in developing countries, including those that still have no access to nuclear medicine, radiation medicine techniques and radiotherapy. The Group encourages the Agency to continue addressing Member States' requirements for comprehensive cancer control capacity and needs through the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), and to foster more regional PACT programmes. The Group highly commends the continued efforts to strengthen collaboration of the Agency with leading cancer organizations and other partners such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), including in the conduct of imPACT reviews, as well as signing new Practical Arrangements with City Cancer Challenge Foundation (C/Can). The Group further welcomes the strengthening of existing partnerships with governments, the private sector and international financing institutions.

21. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Technical Cooperation Report for 2021 contained in document GOV/2022/19.

47 |

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

## **Agenda item 5: Medium Term Strategy 2024-2029**

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I wish to thank Ambassador Miguel Camilo Ruiz Blanco of Colombia for chairing the discussions of the informal Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the preparation of the Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2024–2029 in an inclusive, transparent and professional manner. The Group assures him of its continued support and constructive engagement throughout this process.

2. The Group would also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the drafts of the strategy and presentations thereon.

Mr. Chair,

3. The Group attaches great importance to the MTS 2024-2029. It, therefore, appreciates the process of consultations with the Member States as it believes that MTS should be finalized through a Member States-driven process.



4. The Group would like to reiterate its principled position that the MTS for the next cycles must be consistent with the Statute and the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Policy Making Organs of the Agency and should be based on the evolving priorities of its Member States, taking into account the needs of developing countries. The Group further reiterates that it should reflect an appropriate balance between the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.

5. Considering that the activities under Major Programs 1, 2 and 6 are of paramount importance in fulfilling the Agency's statutory objective "to accelerate and enlarge the contributions of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world", the Group maintains that the activities under these programs should be accorded adequate financial and political support in the MTS to enable the Agency to respond to the increasing requests of Member States, including in contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6. The Group notes that over the period 2024-2029, the operating environment of the Agency will be characterized by multifarious global challenges including the economic, social and environmental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, accelerating climate change and associated challenges will pose a long-term threat to the pursuit of sustainable development. As developing countries seek to tackle these challenges, there will be growing demand for the Agency's assistance and services, in particular through the Technical Cooperation Programme, which is the main statutory vehicle of the Agency for transferring nuclear technology. The Group is therefore of the view that the new MTS should have an even broader emphasis on enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Program, resources for which must be made Sufficient, Assured and Predictable (SAP). The Group believes that achieving such an objective is not exclusively linked to improving the rate of attainment of the Technical Cooperation Fund but also *inter alia* to the need of mobilizing additional resources for the unfunded projects as contained in footnote a/.

7. To conclude, the Group will continue to actively participate in the deliberations of the MTS OEWG and articulate its concerns and expectations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

## **Agenda Item 6: Nuclear Security: Nuclear Security Review**

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to thank the Director General for his introductory statement and the Secretariat for preparing the draft of the Nuclear Security Review 2022 as contained in document Gov/2022/20 and for the informal briefing provided on 19 May 2022.

2. The Group notes that the first Nuclear Security Review 2022 reflects the global trends in 2021 and presents planned Agency activities for 2022 and priorities, as identified by the Agency and Member States, including through the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025, for strengthening nuclear security.

3. In this regard, the Group would like to reiterate the following principled positions.

- Firstly, the Group emphasizes that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State and that the Agency provides support to Member States in strengthening their national Nuclear Security capacity, upon their request.



- Secondly, while the Group recognizes the central role of the Agency in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally and in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear security, it emphasizes that priorities of the Agency and scope of its activities in this field must be determined by Member States based on their needs and must be guided by the General Conference Resolutions on Nuclear Security.
- Thirdly, the Group reiterates that nuclear security considerations should not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, the production, transfer and use of nuclear and other radioactive material, the exchange of nuclear material for peaceful purposes and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and that it should not undermine the established priorities of the Agency's technical cooperation programme.

4. The Group reiterates its concern, voiced previously at the March Board of Governors meeting, regarding the reference to the applying a holistic approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs. The Group once again underlines the need for consultations with Member States on this concept, while taking into consideration their various positions and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the GC resolutions.

5. The Group further underscores that language and terminology employed in the Nuclear Security Review must adhere to the consensus achieved in the GC Resolutions and the Ministerial Declarations on Nuclear Security.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China Statements during the IAEA Board of Governors, 13-17 September 2022,  
delivered by H.E. Mr. Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of  
Morocco**

**Agenda Item 2: Programme Performance Report for 2020-2021**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of G77 and China, would like to thank the Director General for his introductory statement and the Secretariat for preparing the Programme Performance Report 2020-2021, contained in document GOV/2022/36, and reaffirms that the Agency's programmatic activities should continue to be implemented in accordance with the objectives of its Statute.

2. The Group is pleased to note that the Secretariat continues to take various measures to strengthen the implementation of results based approach to programme planning and looks forward to the implementation of actions based on Agency-wide lessons learned. The group notes that all Major Programmes, in the operational portion of the Regular Budget for 2021, had a utilization rate from 97.9% to 100%, demonstrating high usage of the funding provided. The Group further notes that the Agency met 74 of 86 target indicators, or 86%, at the programme level for 2020-2021, while seven are slightly below target and five are far below. The Group notes that some targets not fully reached were a result of the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and in this regard, encourages the Secretariat to take further actions to ensure business continuity and institutional resilience to cope with similar challenges in the future, taking into account the lessons learned and experience gained during the pandemic.

3. On Major Programme 1, the Group appreciates the Agency's continued assistance to Member States considering, planning or operating nuclear power plants, research reactors, small and medium-sized or modular reactor (SMRs), other advanced reactors, and fuel cycle facilities, as well as in nuclear science through various means of delivery, and looks forward to further refinements as brought out in the report. The group notes with satisfaction that the Agency's participation in COP26, contributed to the understanding of the role of nuclear power in addressing climate change. The Group looks forward to the Agency's participation in the upcoming COP27 in Egypt and COP28 in the UAE.

4. On Major Programme 2, the Group is pleased to note the continued support to Member States in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in the areas of food and agriculture, human health, water, the environment, and radioisotope production and radiation technology. The Group welcomes the significant progress in the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL). The Group particularly notes the contribution of the Joint FAO/IAEA Programme of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture in the development and deployment of nuclear applications for food security as well as in the Agency's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Group also notes the Agency's support in the fight against cancer, cardiovascular diseases, malnutrition and other diseases; in nuclear medicine and radiology; in water resources management; in marine monitoring and assessment; in the production and use of medical radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals; and in the application of radiation technologies,

radiotracers, non-destructive testing (NDT) and nucleonic gauges in health, industry, cultural heritage and environment.

5. On Major Programme 3, the Group notes the support to Member States in their efforts to improve nuclear safety and security. The Group notes that the work will continue to strengthen the global safety and security framework through the publication and revision of standards and guidance, as needed, and promoting their application. The Group appreciates the Agency's activities supporting adherence to and implementation of relevant international instruments. The Group remains of the view that nuclear safety and nuclear security considerations should not hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

6. On Major Programme 4, the Group notes the Agency's application of the relevant safeguards agreements, the updating and development of State-level safeguards approaches, and the Modernization of Safeguards Information Technology project. The Group notes the launch of the IAEA Comprehensive Capacity-Building Initiative for State Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC) and State or Regional Authorities Responsible for Safeguards Implementation (SRAs) (COMPASS).

7. On Major Programme 5, the Group notes the continued efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programme delivery. The Group stresses the importance of enhanced transparency and communication with Member States in the implementation of policy, management and administrative changes. The Group notes that the launch of the Ethics function contributes to promoting an ethical culture at the Agency while the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) provides recommendations for improving the Agency's work.

8. The Group notes that the Major Programme 6 continued to transfer nuclear and related technology to Member States through human and institutional capacity building and supported Member States in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. The Group also notes that the rate of attainment on the payments to the TCF for 2020 and 2021, were 91.1% and 95.2% respectively. The Group emphasizes the importance of the TCF in the implementation of the TCP and reiterates its call on all Member States to pay their contributions in accordance with the indicative scale of assessment in full and on time. The Group reiterates that the Technical Cooperation Programme is a shared responsibility and that its success depends on the combined efforts of the Department of Technical Cooperation, other relevant departments and Member States. These efforts are crucial for the planning and successful implementation of the Programme, which should be based on the needs, evolving priorities and ownership of Member States implementing TC projects.

9. The Group remains concerned that the resources available to the TC Programme are still not sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP) to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute, as called for by the General Conference repeatedly in its resolutions on technical cooperation. The Group also reiterates its call for sufficient human resources and adequate funding to be assigned to Major Programme 6, in order to facilitate the successful delivery of the Technical Cooperation Programme.

10. The Group takes note of Agency activities in cross-cutting issues such as resource mobilization, building partnerships and gender equality, as well as the launch of cross-cutting projects such as the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP), Zoonotic

Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC), and Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEK Plastics).

11. The Group remains concerned over the asymmetry between the promotional and nonpromotional activities of the Agency, and therefore believes that sufficient funding from the regular budget must be secured for Major Programmes 1, 2 and 6 in order to respond to the growing needs of developing countries.

12. With these comments, the Group takes note of the Programme Performance Report for 2020-2021 as contained in GOV/2022/36.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Nuclear and Radiation Safety**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank Deputy Director General Lydie Evrard for her remarks under this agenda item, and commends the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security for the preparation of document GOV/2022/35-GC(66)/10, as well as for the work carried out between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022, pursuant to the General Conference resolution GC (65) RES/8.

Mr. Chair,

2. The Group attaches great importance to nuclear safety, a key element in any nuclear programme. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety rests with the States, the Group believes that the Agency plays an essential role in this field, as provided for in Article III of the Statute. The Group reiterates its emphasis that the Agency must retain a central role in nuclear safety, owing to its mandatory functions, its broad membership and its longstanding expertise.

3. The Group also stresses its principled position that nuclear safety and nuclear security considerations must not hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

4. The Group highlights the importance of maintaining, improving and promoting nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and emergency preparedness and response worldwide, including during challenging circumstances such as those witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Group appreciates the Agency's continuous efforts aimed at supporting Member States, especially the developing countries, in capacity building and sharing of knowledge, expertise, technology and information on all aspects of nuclear safety. The Group also welcomes the Agency's activities aimed at supporting nuclear safety infrastructure development in Member States, upon their request. The Group requests the Agency to build on the lessons learnt and experiences gained during the COVID-19 pandemic and enhances its resilience to continue these activities in the face of similar challenges in future.

5. The Group appreciates, in particular, the assistance provided by the Agency, upon request, to developing countries operating, expanding or embarking on nuclear power and radiation technology programmes in establishing or enhancing their national safety infrastructure. We value

the activities related to building competence in the regulatory functions, improving leadership and management for safety and promoting safety culture. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts in assisting interested Member States in the development of capacities and technical skills in nuclear safety, as well as in strengthening the regulatory system and infrastructure needed for the development of nuclear energy.

6. The Group notes the importance of incorporation, where appropriate, of lessons learned from the 2011 Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, the experience of States in implementing the Action Plan, as well as the observations and lessons contained in the IAEA Fukushima Report and the principles of the Vienna Declaration, into the Agency's programme of work. In this regard, the Group supports the continuation of the Secretariat's cross-departmental activities concerning strengthening nuclear safety.

Mr. Chair,

7. The Group welcomes the continued assistance provided by the Agency to the activities of regional forums and related networks, including the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) and events focused on strengthening collaboration among national authorities, specialists, international organizations, forums and working groups. The Group requests the Secretariat to further pursue activities aimed at strengthening regional safety forums and related networks, as mandated by the General Conference.

8. The Group commends the Agency for the activities carried out in the field of radiation safety and environmental protection, including, inter alia, the organization of regional workshops, and appreciates, in particular, the Agency's continued activities aimed at strengthening radiation protection in medicine.

9. The Group attaches high importance to transport safety, and appreciates the involvement of the Secretariat in international efforts to discuss issues related to the transport of radioactive material. The Group supports continued efforts by the Agency to address problems related to denials of and delays in the shipment of radioactive material, particularly shipment by air and urges Member States to facilitate the transport of radioactive material, and to identify, if they have not done so, a national focal point on denials on shipment of radioactive materials to achieve a satisfactory and timely resolution of this issue.

10. The Group takes note of the virtual Technical Meeting held in August 2021 which discussed the situations that lead to the problem of delay or denial of shipment and developed draft Terms of Reference for the newly established Denial of Shipment Working Group (DoS WG).

11. The Group notes the activities developed by the Agency in the area of decommissioning and environmental remediation, such as in support to Member States' decommissioning programmes by providing guidance and training material on safe decommissioning and the development of TECDOCs.

12. The Group commends the Agency for conducting advisory missions on the regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety.

Mr. Chair,

13. The efforts of the Agency in the area of education and training, and knowledge management in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety are of foremost importance to the Group. We reiterate our support for the Agency's efforts to acquire, preserve and transfer knowledge and organizational memory in nuclear safety to Member States.

14. The Group appreciates the Agency's activities in the area of Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) and encourages the Agency to continue them. The Group highlights the importance of supporting the work of regional forums and networks through the conduct of regional EPR workshops in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

15. The Group highlights the important role the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) plays in providing guidance on the approach and strategy for establishing the Agency's safety standards and in endorsing for publication standards on nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, in addition to emergency preparedness and response. The Group takes note of the virtual meetings the Commission and the affiliated Committees held during the reporting period, and looks forward to a return to physical format for future meetings, as soon as appropriate. The Group also takes note of the Secretariat's efforts to optimize and streamline the processing times for publications within existing resources keeping in view the expected increase in safety standards publications over the coming three years.

16. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of document GOV/2022/35-GC(66)/10.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Nuclear Security**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Security Report 2022, which covers the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, as contained in document GOV/2022/31-GC(66)/8. The Group also expresses its thanks to Deputy Director General Lydie Evrard for her introductory remarks under this agenda item.

2. The Group reiterates its view that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State. The Group expresses its strong concern that this important principle has not been reflected in the Nuclear Security Report in accordance with the Nuclear Security Resolutions and requests that this omission be rectified.

3. The Group remains of the view that nuclear security considerations should not hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, and international cooperation in that regard, including through the Technical Cooperation Programme.

4. The Group recognizes the importance of coordination among the Agency's departments in development and implementation of its activities, and calls any effort in this regard to be done in full respect of all the positions presented by the Group in particular regarding the allocation of resources for the Technical Cooperation Programme.



5. The Group concurs with the notion that the role of the Agency in enhancing nuclear security and the scope of its activities must be determined by Member States, as reflected in the Board decisions and General Conference resolutions, with due account of the need to ensure an appropriate balance between activities in the promotional and non-promotional areas.

6. The Group notes that successive General Conference resolutions have affirmed the Agency's central role in assisting Member States for strengthening the nuclear security globally and in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear security. The Agency has responded to these GC resolutions by organizing or participating in a number of major meetings and coordination efforts. The Group appreciates the Agency's efforts in this regard and requests the Secretariat to provide more information in this respect in its future Nuclear Security Reports.

7. The Group appreciates the Agency's continued efforts to assist Member States, upon their request, to build and develop their nuclear security capacity which include facilitating adherence to and implementation of relevant international legal instruments, developing nuclear security guidance and supporting States in the voluntary implementation of the guidance, and helping States in the establishment of effective, sustainable and comprehensive national nuclear security infrastructure.

8. The Group welcomes the voluntary reporting of Member States to the Agency's Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) and notes the ninth Triennial Technical Meeting of States' Points of Contact for the Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) was held in Vienna in April 2022 to exchange information between the Agency and ITDB points of contact. The Group notes that the Agency does not have the mandate or capability to verify such reporting.

9. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue to provide further reassurance that the information, including on the ITDB, is handled with care, especially those with sensitivity and confidentiality.

10. With regard to public communication, while the Group welcomes the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to improve communication with the public and Member States about its Nuclear Security activities, the Group stresses the importance of preserving and protecting the confidential information relevant to such activities.

11. The Group appreciates the continued efforts of the Agency to develop and implement Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs) to assist Member States, upon request, in applying a structured and holistic approach to nuclear security improvements including through capacity building and increased coordination, while also stressing that such information should be handled with care, especially those with sensitivity and confidentiality.

12. The Group appreciates the Agency's efforts in responding to requests of Member States for support in information and computer security through developing additional nuclear security guidance and providing training courses.

13. The Group also reiterates its appreciation to the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee, the Interface Group, the Advisory Group on Nuclear Security, the International Nuclear Safety Group and the Secretariat for their work on and contributions toward the Agency's Nuclear Security Series publications. The Group notes the Secretariat's efforts to facilitate the participation of Member States in the process of development and review of the Agency's Nuclear Security Series

publications. The Group reiterates its call on the Secretariat to facilitate a broader participation of representatives from developing countries in its meetings to ensure greater transparency and consensus in the development and review of such publications.

14. Concerning the Agency's advisory services, the Group notes that the Agency's International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) missions were conducted, upon request, in six Member States and that the Agency has begun implementing the new guidelines for International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) mission.

15. Regarding human resource development, the Group appreciates the Agency's continued support of comprehensive human resource development activities to ensure the sustainability of national nuclear security regimes, including the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN) and International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSCs).

16. The Group notes that during the reporting period, the Agency continued its training and train-the-trainers programmes which resulted in 6999 participants taking part in training and related events and that 1728 new users completed 3548 e-learning modules. The Group further encourages the Secretariat to enhance its activities oriented at capacity-building in Member States, particularly developing countries, thus helping to ensure their adequate human resources.

17. The Group takes note of the Agency's activities, undertaken at the request of Member States, in the area of risk reduction and security improvement. The Group calls on the Secretariat to continue its efforts aimed at strengthening the capabilities of Member States in this regard, including in the areas of threat characterization and assessment, the promotion of nuclear security culture, nuclear material accountancy and control, transport security, and nuclear forensics, among others.

18. The Group takes note of the progress towards the establishment of the Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre (NSTDC) at Seibersdorf. The Group underscores the need to maximize the potential benefits of this centre, while avoiding duplication and overlap with the activities of Nuclear Security Support Centres (NSSCs) in Member States. The Group takes note of informal technical briefings by the Secretariat on the progress related to the NSTDC and requests that the Member States may continue to be kept abreast of the planning of extra budgetary resources needed for the long-term sustainability of the centre.

19. The Group is of the view that the Secretariat should avoid ambiguous language in its reports that can be interpreted in different ways and requests the Secretariat to use a language that reflects the broader views of the Agency's Member States.

20. The Group takes note of the International Conference on the Safe and Secure Transport of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials held virtually in December 2021 and the Conference of the Parties to the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material held from 28 March to 1 April 2022.

21. The Group notes the Agency's main goals and priorities concerning nuclear security for 2023 and beyond, as identified by the Agency and its Member States and in line with the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025, for strengthening nuclear security globally.

22. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Nuclear Security Report 2022.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

## **Agenda Item 6: Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China thanks the Secretariat for the report on Agency activities in the area of nuclear science, technology and applications, as contained in document GOV/2022/30-GC(66)/9, in response to General Conference resolutions GC(65)/RES/11, GC(63)/RES/10 and GC(62)/RES/9.
2. The work done by the Agency in nuclear power and non-power applications highlights the need to continue increasing the transfer of nuclear technology and the sharing of nuclear knowledge to developing countries so as to enhance their capabilities and thus contribute to maximizing the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Group urges the Agency to continue to provide training and education, to support national and regional laboratories and institutions and to further enhance the coordinated research activities. The Group also welcomes the contributions made by Member States to various Agency projects, and encourages all Member States, in a position to do so, to continue providing such support through the Agency.
3. On Annex 1, related to the 'General' part of the non-power nuclear applications, the Group recalls the successful outcomes of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, co-chaired by Costa Rica and Japan in November 2018 and its Ministerial Declaration. The Group reiterates its position that the Agency should organize a follow-up International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme in 2024. In this regard, the Group looks forward to participating in consultations due to start as early as possible.
4. The Group welcomes the continued assistance provided by the Agency, as a member of the UN Crisis Management Team, and in coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO), to Member States in fighting COVID-19 through the provision of equipment and training.
5. The Group notes with appreciation the continued progress made in the area of human health and medical radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals production, as well as the strengthening of Agency's relationship with WHO. The Group also appreciates the Agency's continued efforts to work with Member States' Collaborating Centres and requests the Secretariat to increase the number of Collaborating Centres from developing countries. The Group further appreciates the Agency's support in facilitating effective research through Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs) to allow research institutes in both developing and developed Member States to collaborate.
6. On Annex 2, related to the "Support to the African Union's Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC)", the Group appreciates the Agency's continuous efforts to support the AU-PATTEC Plan of Action through TC projects providing training, expert services and equipment to countries in the African region affected by this problem which constitute one of the greatest constraints on the African continent's socio-economic development. The Group encourages the continuation of the Agency's support toward the AU

PATTEC initiative and also encourages Member States to contribute additional funds in order to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

7. On Annex 3, in relation to the “Renovation of the Agency’s Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf”, the Group commends the efforts of the Secretariat, Friends of the ReNuAL and Member States of the Agency, in mobilizing resources from traditional and nontraditional donors, including through an initiative to seek further private sector partners utilizing the UN Global Marketplace portal. The Group takes positive note that the procurement for construction of the new FML-2 laboratories building, Dosimetry Laboratory refurbishment, and foundation for the future greenhouses is ongoing and the tendering process for the third and final element of ReNuAL 2, the replacement of greenhouses will begin shortly thereafter. The Group is pleased to note that the Yukiya Amano Laboratories (YAL) building which houses the Animal Production and Health Laboratory has, since its full operationalization in 2020, continued to provide invaluable support to Member States in fighting transboundary and zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 and Monkeypox. In light of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories in Seibersdorf, the Group encourages Member States in a position to do so, to contribute to the replacement of greenhouses and finalization of ReNuAL 2 so as to ensure that the laboratories are fit-for-purpose and can meet the needs of Member States, well into future

8. On Annex 4 related to the “Development of the Sterile Insect Technique Package for the Management of Disease Transmitting Mosquitoes”, the Group appreciates the Agency’s continued efforts, in particular the Joint FAO/IAEA and the IPCL in Seibersdorf, to develop, validate, and optimize the sterile insect technique (SIT) package as a complementary tool for the management of mosquito populations. The Group notes that mosquito-borne diseases remains among the most severe threats to the health of millions of people worldwide. In this regard, the Group encourages the Agency to continue to pursue its efforts to develop SIT package for mosquitos to effectively combat disease-transmitting mosquitos. The Group and encourages Member States to contribute additional funds in order to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

9. On Annex 5, “Strengthening the support to Member States in food and agriculture”, the Group commends the Agency for the work carried out in response to a demand of technical assistance from Member States that remains high in the area of nuclear applications in food and agriculture delivered including through CRPs and technical cooperation projects. The Group appreciates the continued demand-driven research and development activities on various important topics, in response to Member States’ requests. The Group appreciates the efforts done in development and enhancement of laboratory networks including the VETLAB, ZODIAC National Laboratories, RALACA, AFoSaN, FSA,MBN and Tephritid Workers Database networks. The Group further welcomes the Agency’s securing of extrabudgetary funds for this important area.

10. The Group commends the continuation of collaborative work between the Agency and the FAO following the signing of the Revised Arrangement for the both organizations partnership in 2021, which will enable the integration of the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre laboratories’ capacities into FAO’s work on One Health. The strengthened partnership will contribute to the Agency’s ZODIAC project The Group appreciates enhanced work undertaken by the Agency and the FAO on global initiatives, such as the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants, the Global Soil Laboratory Network, within the Global Soil Partnership; and the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Group further encourages the Joint Centre to continue its efforts to increase the contribution of nuclear science and technology to raising agricultural productivity and sustainability, and also to respond

major global trends framing agriculture development, including the adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change.

11. On Annex 6, the Group appreciates Agencies activities related to the “Use of Isotope Hydrology for Water Resources Management”. The Group notes the Agency’s efforts to strengthen isotope hydrology activities, with a focus on research, training, protocol development and analytical services to expand the use of groundwater age dating with isotopes to map water resources. These efforts include the upgrading of isotope hydrology laboratories (IHL), expanding activities related to the IAEA Water Availability Enhancement (IWAVE) Project, and strengthening activities, which contribute to the understanding of climate and its impact on the water cycle. The Group commends the Agency for its activities aimed at expanding access to isotope techniques and capacity building.

12. On Annex 7 related to the “Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) Project”, The Group reiterates its support for this project and related activities through the Animal Production and Health Laboratory in Seibersdorf, the VETLAB Network and supporting Member States through interregional TC project INT0098. The Group welcomes the coordination and cooperation with relevant international organizations such as the WHO, FAO, WOAHA and UNEP, and encourages the Secretariat to continue strengthening their cooperation with international initiatives such as One Health and PREZODE relationships further. The Group also notes that over 50 bilateral meetings and 4 regional briefings were undertaken by the Secretariat. The Group further notes the informal technical briefing provided to Member States in May 2022 during which the ZODIAC portal which will serve as a valuable resource for ZNLs was launched. The Group appreciates the prompt response of the Secretariat to the outbreak of Monkeypox and Lassa fever, through a virtual workshop with experts from FAO and WHO, for Zodiac National Coordinators, Zodiac National Laboratories, and Permanent Missions.

13. The Group is fully convinced of ZODIAC’s positive implications and appreciates that over half of the extrabudgetary funds received and pledged towards ZODIAC have been dedicated to capacity building and training and the Group encourages the Secretariat to continue strengthening its resource mobilization efforts in this regard.

14. On Annex 8, “Plan for Producing Potable Water Economically Using Small and Medium Sized or Modular Reactors”, the Group supports the various activities undertaken by the Agency to assist Member States in developing sea water desalination using nuclear energy and to collaborate with international organization in this area. The Group appreciates the comprehensive compilation of activities in this regard in various Member States of the Agency. The Group encourages the Secretariat to continue to support Member States in the conduct of innovative projects involving non-electric applications of nuclear power.

15. The Group takes note of the Secretariat’s NUTEC Plastics initiative, which aims at assisting Member States in integrating nuclear and isotopic techniques to address challenges related to plastic pollution, through providing them with science-based evidence to characterize and assess marine microplastic pollution and demonstrating the use of ionizing radiation in plastic recycling to transform plastic waste into reusable resources. The Group also notes the ongoing TC projects and CRPs related to this initiative and welcomes the virtual events and roundtables that the Secretariat has held with Member States, in order to provide them with an important platform to discuss the IAEA ongoing efforts in this field.



Mr. Chair,

16. The Group believes that nuclear energy will make an increasing contribution to the sustainable development of human kind throughout the 21st century and beyond. The Group further notes the role played by nuclear power in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring a reliable source of energy, and its contribution to addressing climate change issues and to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Group also welcomes the Agency's growing contributions to support interested Member States in mitigating the challenges of climate change through Nuclear Power and Nuclear Techniques. The Group appreciates the Agency's participation at the 2021 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) recognizing that the role nuclear technology can play in both effectively mitigating and adapting to the increasingly severe consequences of the climate crisis. The Group encourages the Agency's continued engagement in high-level dialogue on nuclear energy and nuclear techniques and applications at COP27, to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in 2023.

17. The Group notes with appreciation the efforts exerted by the Secretariat in supporting interested Member States in the field of nuclear power application, and its continuous engagement with stakeholders in charge of Nuclear Power Program, in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Group also highlights the work done by the Secretariat in providing guidance and capacity building to interested Member States in managing the nuclear fuel cycle, and radioactive waste, as well as enhancing the different aspect of the research reactor life cycle, and strengthening excellence for the safe, secure, efficient, and sustainable operation of nuclear power plants and their life management, including decommissioning.

18. The Group values the support provided to Member States embarking on or expanding a nuclear power programme, upon their request, in particular through a variety of advisory and peer review missions, including the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions. The Group takes note of the rescheduling of some of the advisory and peer review missions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

19. The Group notes the next International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century which is scheduled to take place in the United States of America in October 2022. The Group looks forward to a successful conference with a view to advancing the role of nuclear power in meeting future energy demands, contributing to sustainable development and mitigating climate change. The Group attaches importance to regular convening of this Conference and looks forward to interested Member States from the G-77 hosting the Conference in the future, given the growing number of embarking States on Nuclear Power Programmes within the Group.

20. On Annex 14 "Agency Activities in the Development of Innovative Nuclear Technology", the Group reiterates the highest importance it attaches to the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO), as a relevant forum gathering technology holders and users with the aim of achieving innovations in nuclear reactors and fuel cycles. The Group welcomes the growing number of the INPRO Member States from the group, and notes with appreciation the developing of multiple Collaborative projects and CRPs in the framework of INPRO, while reiterating its call for continued support for INPRO from the Regular Budget.

21. On Annex 16, "Small and Medium-sized or Modular Reactors – Development and Deployment", the Group underscores the important role these reactors as an option for enhancing



energy availability in both expanding and embarking countries, as they are better suited to the small electrical grids of some developing countries. This is in addition to the great potential of the use of SMR technology for non-electric applications. The Group take notes the different activities undertaken by the Agency, such as the approval of new coordinated research projects, the organization of technical and consultancy meetings, and the development of related publications and training material. The Group welcomes that the Agency is developing the Platform on Small Modular Reactors and their Applications, to ensure a cross-departmental approach and to provide the full array of Agency support and expertise on all aspects of the development, deployment and oversight of SMRs.

22. The Group reiterates its support for the initiative launched by the Director General, titled “Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP)” aimed at to promoting gender equality and diversity in the context of nuclear knowledge management. The Group reaffirms its commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and hopes that this new initiative will help advance this cause. The Group was also satisfied to see that, as stated in the concept paper of the initiative, geographical balance will be a part of the selection criteria for the fellowship.

Mr. Chair,

23. The Group takes note of the variety of data and information presented in the report that showcase the status of nuclear power today, its high prospects in the future, the technology advancements, as well as the different factors and challenges that impact the future deployment of nuclear power plants and reactors, including the availability of funding, fuel sustainability, human resources development and the regulatory frameworks. The Group looks forward to further discussing how to address these challenges during the upcoming International Nuclear Power Conference scheduled in October 2022.

Mr. Chair

24. With these comments, the Group takes note of document under this agenda item GOV/2022/30-GC(66)/9

Thank you, Mr. Chair



**G-77 and China statement during the IAEA Board of Governors delivered  
by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane during the Board of Governors  
on 3 October 2022**

**Agenda item 6: Any other business**

Mr. Chair, [H.E. Ambassador Mr. Ivo Šrámek, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic]

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China to reiterate my appreciation and thanks to the outgoing Chairperson, His Excellency Mr HAM Sang Wook, Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs Governor from the Republic of Korea and his team for the successful stewardship of the Board of Governors between the 65<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> sessions of the General Conference.

2. On behalf of the Group, I wish to specially congratulate you Mr. Chair for assuming the chairmanship of the Board of Governors for the coming year. Our congratulations go also to your Vice-Chairpersons, the Resident Representatives, H.E. Ambassador Carlos Sérgio SOBRAL DUARTE of Brazil and H.E. Ambassador Eoin O'LEARY of Ireland.

3. The Group would also like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to the President of the General Conference, His Excellency Ambassador Alessandro CORTESE, Permanent Representative of Italy, for his excellent work and for his able leadership of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference.

4. The Group also commends Mr. Mandlenkosi Lunga BENGU, Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa for his outstanding Chairmanship of the Committee of the Whole and the Vice Chairperson, Ms. Louise Flugger CALLESEN, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Denmark.

Mr. Chair,

5. The G-77 and China is confident that the Board will remain in good and steady hands as we move forward with the work of the Agency. Rest assured that you have the full support and commitment of our Group.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China statement during the special meeting of the Board of Governors  
Meeting to adopt the Revision of The Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023,  
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of  
Morocco**

Vienna, 23 December 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group would like to reiterate its trust in your leadership in steering our collective deliberations on the important subject of the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023.
2. The Group wishes to express its deep appreciation for your professionalism and your efforts in seeking consensus through the organisation of an open, wide and extensive consultation process on the Budget Update.
3. Also, the Group would like to thank the Secretariat for the briefings and information provided, including through the non-papers provided, responding to queries from Member States.

Mr. Chair,

4. The Group takes note with appreciation that the revised proposal by the Chair of the Board of Governors on the Agency's Budget Update for 2023 addressed the concerns raised by Member States, particularly regarding the following aspect:

- The engagement in a wide and substantive consultation process to adopt the Budget by consensus so as to ensure its ownership by the entire membership of the Agency.
- The principle that any revised price adjustment applicable to the Regular Budget shall be contingent upon a corresponding level of price adjustment being applied to the TCF target for 2023, in accordance with the principle agreed since 2009 and as reaffirmed in the document GOV/2021/25.
- The current high staff-related costs of the total operational regular budget will be reduced from 75% to 74% for 2023, and the reduced 1% be used for TC and other activities. The Group requests that the staff-related costs will be further cut down and used for TC related activities.
- The convening of a Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets for 2024-2025 to examine the opportunities for further efficiencies in the Agency's operations, including with respect to staff-related costs, that could be implemented in the 2024-2025 budget cycle, taking into account the importance of full and effective implementation of existing rules and regulations, including the Agency's Staff Regulations. The Group hopes that the extensive discussions we have had the past two months will help us avoid similar situations in the future and looks forward to engage in inclusive, constructive and consensus-based deliberations within the Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets for 2024-2025.

5. With these remarks, the Group would like to join consensus on the proposed Draft Budget Update for 2023.

Thank you Mr. Chair.



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the IAEA Informal Programme and Budget Committee Meeting, on 3 February 2022, delivered by H.E. Mr. Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Morocco**

Mr. Chairperson,

1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023 contained in GOV/2022/1 and for the presentation provided today.

2. The Group maintains its principled position with regard to the Regular Budget, which calls for a balanced distribution of the budget so as to reflect the equal importance of the three pillars of the Agency, namely (a) the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, including technical cooperation, (b) safety and (c) safeguards.

3. The Group notes that the draft budget update for 2023 proposes no changes to the Agency's programme for 2022-2023 biennium as approved in the Agency's Programme and Budget 2022-2023 and that it represents zero real growth over 2022 with a 1.7% price adjustment in the regular budget. The Group further notes that the update envisages no changes to the Major Capital Investment Plan (MCIP). The Group welcomes that cost saving and efficiencies worth €10.7 million are expected through reductions in staff and travel costs. We appreciate the efforts by the Director General and the Secretariat to uphold the commitment to maintaining staff costs at 75% of the operational regular budget, as a means to address the trend of increasing staff costs observed in the last decade. At the same time the Group underscores the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and gender balance among the Agency's staff, or the participation of experts. The Group also reiterates its view that cost savings measures and efficiencies should not negatively impact promotional activities of the Agency in particular delivery of the Technical Cooperation Programme, or the participation of experts from the developing countries in the Agency's activities.

4. Concerning possible options for the ASHI liability funding mechanism, the Group looks forward to further update from the Secretariat in the first quarter of 2022.

5. The Group welcomes the allocation of €1.6 million from the Regular Budget to the ReNuAL 2 initiative. The Group supports the efforts to complete the initiative in 2023 and calls on the Secretariat to continue to pursue a project-specific resource mobilization strategy. We welcome the vital role that the Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf play in providing support to Member States.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the Programme and Budget Committee, starting on 9 May 2022, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Farhane Azzeddine, Permanent Representative of Morocco**

**Agenda Item 2: Agency's Financial Statements for 2021, including the Report of the External Auditor**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China thanks the Deputy Director General for her introductory statement and the Secretariat for the presentations delivered during the informal Workshop on Financial and Administrative matters on 8 April 2022.
2. With regard to the Financial Statements of the Agency for 2021, including the External Auditor's report. The Group would like to make the following comments:
3. The Group would like to express its appreciation to the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia for the professionalism in conducting the audit on the Agency's activities for the sixth consecutive year and whose independent auditing work will assist the efforts of the Agency towards efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery.
4. The Group is pleased to note that "an unqualified opinion" has once again been placed on the Agency's financial statements. The External Auditor has made several observations and recommendations for the improvement of the Agency's financial practices. The Group supports the implementation of relevant recommendations aimed at improving management and enhancing efficiency.
5. On the Financial aspect, the Group notes that the Regular Budget Fund experienced a slight increase in revenue from assessed contributions. The Group also notes that there was an increase in revenue from voluntary contributions due to an increase in the revenue of the Technical Cooperation Fund and extrabudgetary contributions relating to the Low Enriched Uranium Bank. However, this was partly offset by a decrease of €21.3 million in revenue from extrabudgetary contributions which validates the Group's position that extrabudgetary contributions cannot be a reliable source of funding. While appreciating the extrabudgetary contributions, that were made by those in a position to do so, the Group would like to caution against over-reliance on extrabudgetary funds, as this could negatively impact the effectiveness and independence, as well as long term sustainability of the Agency's activities.
6. The Group also takes this opportunity to underscore the fact that TC activities continue to lack sufficient, assured and predictable resources and requests the Secretariat to address this issue.
7. The Group notes that the net assets of the TCF and the TC Extrabudgetary Fund increased by €18.3 million and €5.1 million, respectively. While this reflects the overall health of the funds, the Group maintains its view that it should not be interpreted to mean that TCF resources exceed what can be implemented. The Group would like to clarify that this is also due to the nature of TCF activities that are implemented over a longer time horizon than one financial year. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue to explain this fact in all future financial statements of the Agency.
8. The Group calls on all Member States to pay their contributions to the Regular Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund, on time and in full.

9. In addition, the Group would like to highlight its appreciation of the extrabudgetary contributions made by Member States and the private sector towards to the Agency's COVID-19 related assistance.

Mr. Chair,

10. While the Group notes a decrease of €62 million in total liabilities, it expresses concern that the After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liability represents 46% of the total liabilities of the Agency. The Group notes that the Director General is exploring mechanisms to start addressing the ASHI liability through cost containment measures and the creation of a fund without requesting additional resources from Member States and looks forward to the Secretariat's proposal in this regard.

11. The Group encourages the Secretariat to continue addressing the significant growing liabilities, and to consult regularly with and report to Member States about the relevant measures to be taken in that regard. The Group reiterates its request that budget information regarding staff costs, as well as regarding all the relevant expenditure items, should be presented in such a way as to permit meaningful comparison of the budget proposals on a year-on-year basis.

12. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, the Group encourages the Secretariat to implement the External Auditor's recommendations in a transparent manner and where feasible, to consult with Member States.

13. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Agency's Financial Statements for 2021, as contained in document GOV/2022/11, and documents GOV/INF/2022/6.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

### **Agenda Item 3: The 2021 Internal Audit, Management Services and Investigations Report and the 2021 Programme Evaluation Report**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China thanks the Secretariat and the Director of Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for the 2021 Internal Audit, Management Services and Investigations Report and the 2021 Programme Evaluation Report.

2. The Group expresses its appreciation for the work conducted by the OIOS to ensure management efficiency and programme effectiveness and to enhance accountability. The Group recognizes that the organizational independence of the OIOS is fundamental to fulfill the responsibilities of the internal audit activities and the OIOS must confirm it to the Board of Governors at least annually.

3. The Group notes that an external quality assessment (EQA) of the OIOS internal audit function commissioned by the Agency, as required by the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, has been delayed due to the pandemic. The Group looks forward to the conclusions of this assessment in November 2022.

4. The Group is of the view that the audit and evaluation activities carried out by the OIOS should cover all Major Programmes equally.

5. The Group notes that in 2021, the OIOS rated five audited areas as "some improvement needed" and one as "major improvement needed".

6. On the Country-Level Evaluations and Audits (CLEAs), the Group recalls that CLEAs were carried out in Croatia, Georgia, Montenegro and North Macedonia and reported on during the



Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC) in November 2021. The Group notes the findings, recommendations and cross-cutting conclusions that aim to facilitate long-term capacity-building and sustainability planning. The Group notes with satisfaction the OIOS assessment that the Agency demonstrated resilience and tenacity in face of the pandemic and continued to deliver on its mandate effectively.

Mr. Chair,

7. The Group has taken note with satisfaction that all recommendations were accepted by the Secretariat. While, the Group is cognizant that the percentage of open recommendations from the period 2016-2019 have decreased, it requests the Secretariat to implement the earlier outstanding recommendations.

8. Turning to the 2021 Programme Evaluation Report, the Group would like to make the following comments:

9. Regarding the evaluation of the Agency's recent work on marine plastics, the Group notes the OIOS' assessment that, by promoting the use of nuclear applications and stable isotope techniques as a complimentary approach, the Agency is well positioned to be an important and influential actor in combating marine plastic pollution. The Group notes that OIOs has made four recommendations which can help the Agency improve the design and implementation of the NUTEC Plastics initiative. The Group encourages the Secretariat to implement these recommendations, in particular the one related to technology transfer to a broader group of Member States.

10. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the 2021 Internal Audit Activity Report, as contained in document GOV/2022/9, and the 2020 Programme Evaluation Report, contained in document GOV/2022/10.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

### **Agenda item 5: The Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023**

67 |

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for issuing the proposal of the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023.

2. The Group would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate its principled position with regard to the Regular Budget, which calls for a balanced distribution of the budget so as to reflect the equal importance of the three pillars of the Agency, namely (a) the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, including technical cooperation, (b) safety and (c) safeguards.

3. The Group also notes that the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023, as contained in document GOV/2022/1 reflects the elements agreed upon in the Proposal to the Board of Governors by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund Targets for 2022–2023, as contained in document GOV/2021/25.

4. The Group recalls that the Secretariat should include in the Agency's Draft Programme and Budget 2024–2025, budgetary information by items of expenditure, as well as the level of Full Time Equivalents by staff category.

5. Regarding the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF), the Group takes note that the target for voluntary contributions to the TCF recommended by the Board of Governors amounts to €92 600 000 for 2023. The Group reiterates its view that future decisions on TCF targets and Indicative Planning Figures must take into account:

- the increasing number of Member States which will require full support under the Technical Cooperation Programme;
- the evolution in the level of the Regular Budget in line with the Board's decision GOV/2014/49 and GC.58/Res.12;
- the need for the Agency to place the appropriate emphasis on its activities directly related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Member States, based on their national needs and priorities;
- the large unfunded components of Technical Cooperation projects in Member States, also termed as footnote-a/ projects;
- the price adjustments; other relevant factors.

Bearing these factors in mind, the Group reiterates the call for the need to balance the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.

6. The Group has taken note that cost savings and efficiencies of €10.7 million per annum identified and reported in the Agency's Programme and Budget 2022–2023 will continue to be implemented in 2023. The Group requests that such measures should not negatively impact the delivery of the Technical Cooperation Programme.

7. In light of the likely effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of the implementation of the Programme and Budget, including the TCP, in 2023, the Group requests that any changes required in implementation be addressed in close coordination with affected Member States and informed accordingly.

8. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2021, as contained in document GOV/2022/1.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China Statement during the IAEA Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee, 14 November 2022, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of Morocco**

**Agenda Item 2: Technical Cooperation, The Agency's Proposed Programme for 2023**

1. [Not to be read] The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the Agency's Proposed Technical Cooperation Programme for 2023, as contained in documents GOV/2022/56 as well as Mr. Hua Liu, Deputy Director General, and the staff of the Department of Technical Cooperation for the briefing provided to Member States on November 4th. We also thank DDG for his introductory remarks under this agenda item.

Mr. Chair,

2. The Group reiterates the paramount importance of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) as the main vehicle for the Agency's statutory function of encouraging and assisting research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful uses throughout the world. The Technical Cooperation Program plays an important role for the sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries and contributes towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The fact that development gains across the globe have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic should give impetus to efforts for further strengthening and expansion of the TC Programme, including through secure, assured and predictable funding. The Group commends in this regard the important role the Technical Cooperation Department plays in carrying out the TCP as mandated by the IAEA Statute.

3. The Group also reiterates that the Technical Cooperation Program is a shared responsibility and that, as such, it has to be the result of the combined efforts mainly of the Department of Technical Cooperation, of the technical Departments and of Member States themselves. These efforts are crucial for the planning and successful implementation of the Technical Cooperation Program, which is based on the needs and evolving priorities of those Member States in which TC projects are implemented. In this regard, the Group reiterates that "the nature, extent and scope of technical assistance to be provided to the requesting State or group of States shall be defined by the Government or Governments concerned", as is the established practice and is reflected in paragraph (f) of the Revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency (INFCIRC/267), and in preambular paragraph (l) of Resolution GC(65)/RES/10. The Group is of the view that this important principle should continue to guide the provision of Technical Cooperation by the Agency and requests the Secretariat to reflect it explicitly in future proposed Programmes, in particular in the section on the programming process.

Mr. Chair,

4. The Group notes that Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) target for 2023 is €92.6 million as per the recommendation submitted to the Board of Governors (GOV/2021/25). The Group also notes that a rate of attainment of 94% has been used as a basis for calculating the resources that are expected to be available and that this Committee is consequently expected to recommend the sum of up to € 87,044,000 to the Board for approval. The Group would like to express its concern that resources for the TC Programme, like the Agency's Regular Budget, have also been subjected to the prevalent inflationary pressures across the globe with the

consequent loss of purchasing power. This entails that the goal of rendering resources for the TC programme sufficient, assured and predictable even more challenging. The Group, therefore, underscores that the funds available for the TC Programme in 2023 must also be increased accordingly should an agreement be reached on revised price adjustment to the Regular Budget for 2023.

5. The Group emphasizes the importance of the TCF in the implementation of the TCP and while appreciating the continued commitment of Member States over the years, reiterates its call on all Member States to pay their contributions in accordance with the indicative scale of assessment in full and on time. The Group also requests the secretariat to work closely with Member States to achieve high-level rates of attainment on payments to the TCF.

6. The Group reiterates its view that the resources available for the TC Programme should be sufficient, assured and predictable to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute, and should be increased taking into account the Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs), the increasing number of Member States with a national TCP, the evolution in the level of the regular budget, the Board's decision of June 2016 to place the appropriate emphasis on the Agency's activities directly related to the implementation of the SDGs in Member States, the large unfunded components of TC projects in Member States, also termed as footnote a/ projects, the price increases and other relevant factors.

7. The Group notes that the total Footnote a/ activities amount to 47.2 million in 2023. This clearly indicates that the current level of resources available falls short of the resources needed. The Group further stresses the importance of maintaining an adequate balance between the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.

8. The Group stresses that the implementation rate of the current TC cycle, which is impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, should not affect future budget considerations and that the goal of achieving sufficient, assured and predictable resources shall be always a priority.

9. The Group also welcomes the decision taken by the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference, as mandated in GC(66)/RES/8 on convening a follow-up to the 2018 Ministerial Conference on nuclear science, technology and applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme in 2024 with a view to convening it every four years thereafter, and requests the Secretariat to commence consultations with Member States in preparation for the Conference as soon as possible.

10. The Group appreciates the important steps taken to enhance representation of women in the Secretariat, reaffirms its principle of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance, and reiterates that this principle should be reflected in all the Technical Cooperation activities of the IAEA. The Group takes this opportunity to continue requesting the Secretariat to significantly improve equitable geographical distribution and gender balance within the Agency at all levels of responsibility.

Mr. Chair,

11. With these remarks, the Group joins the consensus in having the Committee recommend to the Board the actions listed in the Agency's proposed Technical Cooperation Programme as contained in document GOV/2022/56, and requests that its views and comments be duly reflected in the official records of the TACC meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

## Agenda item 4: Evaluation of technical cooperation activities in 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for presenting its evaluation of the Agency's technical cooperation activities in 2022, as contained in document GOV/2022/46. The Group also thanks the OIOS for the technical briefing.
2. The Group continues to attach great importance to the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to strengthen the Agency's ability to ensure management efficiency and programme effectiveness, and to enhance accountability. The Group welcomes that the External Quality Assessment has given the OIOS's internal audit activity the highest rating of "generally conforms" to the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing of the Institutes of Internal Auditors.
3. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the evaluation results of the four CLEAs undertaken in 2022, with the intention of helping to strengthen the management of TC activities through systematic solutions. In this regard, the Group welcomes the increase of number of countries covered by CLEAs from four in 2021 to six in 2022 and the intention of the OIOS to maintain this number per annum in future.
4. The Group notes that the overall cost of the OIOs activities rose from €517 475 in 2021 to €644751 due the resumption of filed visits and higher number of CLEAs. The Group stresses that the OIOS should, in the course of their regular work and within resources allocated to these offices from the Regular Budget, evaluate projects, in a balanced manner across all major programmes.
5. In this regard, the Group encourages the OIOS to perform evaluations of the activities of the other departments in the Agency, so that evaluation activities are applied in a balanced manner across all major programmes. The Group stresses the importance of a balanced allocation of resources for evaluation purposes between TC-related activities and other activities of the Agency, which require similarly intensive evaluation, since these activities account for a larger portion of the Agency's budget. Given the increasing demands on the Agency's budgetary, human and other resources, the Group encourages the OIOS to carry out its audit and evaluation functions in an effective and judicious manner, utilizing opportunities for synergies presented by other existing audit, evaluation and assessment mechanisms in the Agency and in the Member States.
6. The Group takes positive note of the OIOS' finding that, overall, the TC Programme quality review process was making a significant contribution to the quality of project designs, which in turn facilitated the implementation of TC projects in Member States; and that the management of the TC programme had improved consistently over the past decade.
7. The Group further notes that the Report on the evaluation of technical cooperation activities in 2022 has made 15 recommendations, which were all accepted by the Secretariat.
8. The Group takes positive note that only 3 Programme Evaluation Recommendations are overdue and that the percentage of open recommendations from evaluations between 2016 and 2019 has further reduced from 5% to 2% between February and August 2022. We note that 43 Internal Audit Recommendations were also overdue this year. It is pertinent to note that the overdue recommendations for both the Programme Evaluation and Internal Audit are not related to TC

activities and that they are Agency wide activities. Such a fact underlines the importance of striking a balanced approach in evaluating all the activities of the Agency. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue working towards the implementation of these recommendations, as appropriate.

Mr. Chair,

9. The Group takes note of the key cross-cutting findings and recommendations highlighted in the synthesis report. In particular, the Group notes that there were major delays of the Agency activities in all six CLEA countries, which suggests fundamental and systematic design issues as well as other problems with project implementation. The Group notes with concern the finding that knowledge sharing within the Agency is individual-centric and not supported by adequate systems. The Group, therefore, encourages the Secretariat to undertake appropriate measures for effective institutional knowledge management, preservation and handover for continuity purposes. The Group also fully endorses the OIOs recommendation that as the pandemic recedes, there would be increased demand for assistance to make up for missed training opportunities and to accommodate increased procurement of equipment.

10. While appreciating the important steps taken to enhance representation of women in the Secretariat, the Group also reaffirms its support for the principle of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance, and reiterates that this principle should be reflected in the Secretariat as well as in all the Technical Cooperation activities of the IAEA.

11. The Group takes this opportunity to continue requesting the Secretariat to significantly improve equitable geographical distribution and gender balance within the Agency at all levels of responsibility.

12. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Evaluation of Technical Cooperation Activities in 2022, as contained in document GOV/2022/46, and requests that its views and comments be duly reflected in the official records of the TACC meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.





**STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA DURING THE  
SECOND WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MEDIUM-TERM  
STRATEGY 2024-2029, DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. AZZEDDINE  
FARHANE, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
MOROCCO**

Vienna, 21 February 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to congratulate you, a member of the Group, on assuming chairmanship of the informal Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the preparation of the Medium Term Strategy 2024–2029. We assure you of the Group’s full support and constructive engagement in this process.
2. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the presentations made at the first meeting of the Working Group and today which will help facilitate our discussions on the MTS 2024-2029.
3. The Group maintains that the MTS must be fully consistent with the Statute of the Agency as well as decisions and resolutions of the policy making organs. As such, it should reflect an appropriate balance between the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.

Thank you, Chair.



**STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA DURING THE THIRD WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2024-2029, DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. AZZEDDINE FARHANE, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

Vienna, 13 May 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I wish to thank you for chairing the discussions of the open-ended Working Group on the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2024-2029 in an inclusive, transparent and professional manner. The Group appreciates the consultations conducted by the Chair with the Member States as it believes that the Medium-Term Strategy should be finalized through a Member States driven process.

2. The Group would also like to thank the Secretariat for the draft of the MTS and the presentation made today. While the Group is analyzing the draft and looks forward to sharing further comments in due course, it has the following views to express at this stage.

3. The Group reiterates that the MTS for the next cycles must be consistent with the Statute and the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Policy Making Organs of the Agency and should be based on the evolving priorities of its Member States, taking into account the needs of developing countries.

4. The Group further reiterates that the new MTS should reflect an appropriate balance between the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.

5. Considering that the activities under Major Programs 1, 2 and 6 are of paramount importance in fulfilling the Agency's statutory objective "to accelerate and enlarge the contributions of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world", the Group maintains that the activities under these programs should be accorded adequate financial and political support in the MTS to enable the Agency to respond to the increasing requests of Member States, including in contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6. The Group notes that over the period 2024-2029, the operating environment of the Agency will be characterized by multifarious global challenges including the economic, social and environmental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, accelerating climate change and associated challenges will pose a long-term threat to the pursuit of sustainable development. As developing countries seek to tackle these challenges, there will be growing demand for the Agency's assistance and services, in particular through the Technical Cooperation Programme, which is the main statutory vehicle of the Agency for transferring nuclear technology. The Group is therefore of the view that the new MTS should have an even broader emphasis on enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Program, resources for which must be made Sufficient, Assured and Predictable (SAP). The Group believes that achieving such an objective is not exclusively linked to improving the rate of attainment of the Technical Cooperation Fund but also *inter alia* to the need of mobilizing additional resources for the unfunded projects as contained in footnote a.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA DURING THE FIFTH  
WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY  
2024-2029, DELIVERED BY MR. SAID AHOUGA, MINISTER  
PLENIPOTENTIARY, PERMANENT MISSION OF MOROCCO**

Vienna, 1st June 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. The Group would like to reiterate its appreciation for you in conducting the discussions of the open-ended Working Group on the preparation of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2024-2029 in an inclusive, transparent and professional manner.
3. The Group would also like to thank the Secretariat for responding to suggestions, comments and questions by members of the Group at the last meeting of the Working Group and for the revised draft of the MTS 2024-2029.
4. While the Group will analyze the revised draft and revert with comments thereon, it would like to refer to its priorities for the MTS set out in previous statements. To recall, the Group reiterates that the MTS 2024-2029 must:
  - a. Be consistent with the Statute and the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Policy Making Organs of the Agency;
  - b. Be based on the evolving priorities Member States, with special attention to the needs of developing countries;
  - c. Reflect an appropriate balance between the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.
  - d. Place broader emphasis on enhancement of the Technical Cooperation Program, resources for which must be made Sufficient, Assured and Predictable (SAP).
5. To conclude, Mr. Chair, the Group looks forward to constructive discussions during the process and assures you of its full support.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA DURING THE SIXTH  
WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY  
2024-2029, DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. AZZEDDINE FARHANE,  
AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

Vienna, 17 June 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. The Group would once again like to reiterate its appreciation for you in conducting the discussions of this open-ended Working Group in an inclusive, transparent and professional manner while taking into account the Group's concerns. This has helped us make significant progress towards finalization of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2024-2029.
3. The Group would also like to thank the Secretariat for responding to suggestions, comments and questions by members of the Group at the previous meetings of the Working Group and for the revised draft of the MTS 2024-2029.
4. The Group has articulated its priorities for the MTS in previous meetings. At this point, the Group would like to reiterate its belief that the guiding principles as set out in INFCIRC 267 must continue to govern the formulation of the Technical Cooperation Programme which must not be made subject to any conditions not set out in the Agency's Statute.
5. To conclude, Mr. Chair, the Group assures you of its continued support in finalizing the MTS 2024-2029.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China statement during the Open Ended Informal Consultations on the Revision of The Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of Morocco**

Vienna, 4 November 2022

Mr. Chair,

The Group would like to express its trust in your leadership in steering our collective deliberations on the important subject of the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023.

The Group would also like to thank the Secretariat for the briefings and information provided, including through the non-paper of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022, responding to some queries from Member States.

The Group wishes to share the Group's position and initial views regarding the proposed price adjustment revision in the Agency's 2023 Regular Budget.

The Group acknowledges that the unprecedented inflationary pressures, driven by various factors, have negatively impacted the Agency's purchasing power with implications for the implementation of its programmatic activities across all Major Programmes. The Group, nevertheless, wishes to highlight that the Agency's experience is not unique. The economic situation across the globe is difficult and Member States are confronted with similar inflationary pressures and associated financial challenges, including financial effects of COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed price adjustment, therefore, needs to be determined while taking into account the existing global economic realities. In this regard, the Group encourages the Secretariat to do its utmost to gain further savings and efficiencies and, in particular, to explore all options to contain the staff related costs which represent the major portion of the Agency's Regular Budget. We further encourage the Agency to adopt concrete austerity measures, including not to consider salary increases, until the economic situation improves, which is how many Member States are trying to balance their budgets.

Secondly, it has been the Group's consistent position that the promotional activities of the Agency, delivered through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), are its main statutory function. The Group understands that the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF), whose figures are similarly a reflection of the price adjustment, has also been subject to the same inflationary pressures which have impacted the Regular Budget. This is particularly worrisome at a time when the demand for the Agency's TCP is growing as developing countries seek to benefit from peaceful uses of nuclear technology to pursue sustainable development. In accordance with the principle that the Regular Budget and the TCF should evolve in tandem, the Group asserts its firm position that its consideration of any revised price adjustment applicable to the Regular Budget should be contingent upon a corresponding level of price adjustment being applied to the TCF target for 2023. This principle has been acknowledged in the proposal made on the Regular Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund targets for 2022-2023, as contained in document GOV/2021/25. Adherence to this principle is vital to protect the TCF, which remains to be made sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP), from being eroded by the prevalent inflationary trends.

Finally, the Group believes that deliberations by the Board may be aided by further information regarding the programmes/projects that could be postponed with minimal adverse fallout and without prejudice to the agreed balance between promotional and non-promotional activities.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China statement during the Second Open Ended Informal  
Consultations on the Revision of The Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023,  
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of  
Morocco**

Vienna, 10 November 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group would like to thank you for convening the 2<sup>nd</sup> Informal Consultation on the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023 and has taken note of the Non-Paper issued on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 presenting your proposal for the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023 as contained in document GOV/2022/1/Rev.1. The Group, the largest and cross-regional grouping of the IAEA Member States, regrets that the positions expressed by it at the 1<sup>st</sup> Informal Consultation have not been reflected in the Non-Paper.

2. The Group would also like to thank the Secretariat for the information provided thus far in response to some queries from Member States. However, the Group is of the view that there is a need for further clarifications on many aspects, particularly with respect to Staff-related costs.

3. The Group would like to reaffirm that the views expressed by it at the first informal consultation held on 4th November 2022 continue to define its position. To summarize, the Group:

- Urges the Secretariat to do its utmost to gain further savings and efficiencies and, in particular, to explore all options to contain and reduce the Staff related costs which represent the major portion of the Agency's Regular Budget; and
- Further urges the Agency to adopt concrete austerity measures, including not to consider salary increases.

4. The Group notes with concern that the Agency's programmatic activities, especially TC, have been the most affected as a result of the current financial challenges, and the consequent dwindling purchasing power. The Group reiterates its firm position that Technical Cooperation, which is a statutory function of the Agency, should continue to be prioritized.

5. The Group, therefore, reiterates its firm view that its consideration of any revised price adjustment applicable to the Regular Budget shall be contingent upon a corresponding level of price adjustment being applied to the TCF target for 2023, in accordance with the principle agreed since 2009 and as reaffirmed in the document GOV/2021/25. This would also be of vital importance to pursue the objective of rendering resources for the TC Programme as sufficient, assured and predictable.

6. The Group reiterates its request to the Secretariat for further information regarding the programmes/projects that could be postponed with minimal adverse fallout. In this regard, any efforts by the Secretariat to deal with the inflationary pressure, including possible suspension or re-prioritization of some of its programmatic activities, if necessary, as well as temporary cost control measures, shall be fully consistent with the agreed balance between promotional and non-promotional activities.



7. The Group also hopes that the Secretariat will handle the budget issue, especially the Staff-related costs in strict accordance with, inter alia, the IAEA Statute, the relevant Board and GC resolutions, as well as the Staff and Financial Regulations.

8. Recognizing the complexity of the issue which demands adequate consideration, the Group underscores that it must be addressed through an inclusive, transparent and consensus-based approach through appropriate mechanisms, including through a relevant inclusive working group, if necessary.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China statement during the third Open Ended Informal Consultations on the Revision of The Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of Morocco**

Vienna, 15 November 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group would like to thank you for organizing the third open ended informal consultations on the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2023.
2. The Group has taken note of the revised non-paper issued on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022. However, since the non-paper was issued quite late in the evening yesterday, the Group is still in the process of analysing it and many of its members are awaiting instructions from their capitals.
3. Nevertheless, at this stage the Group is constrained to observe that the revised proposal retains the essential features of the original proposal with no substantive changes. Many of the concerns expressed by the Group have remained unaddressed. Most importantly the proposal contained in the non-paper does not substantively address the concerns of the group regarding the proposed increase to the regular budget as well as accommodate a proportional change to the TCF if the regular Budget were to be increased.
4. The Group reiterates that it continues to firmly stand by the views expressed at the previous two meetings, including with respect to the need for revising the TCF target for 2023 in a manner commensurate with proposed change in the Regular Budget; the imperative of maintaining the balance between promotional and non-promotional activities; reducing Staff-related costs; need for further savings and efficiencies. The Group once again expresses its expectation that the Secretariat will handle the budget issue, especially the Staff-related costs in strict accordance with, inter alia, the IAEA Statute, the relevant Board and GC resolutions, as well as the Staff and Financial Regulations.
5. The Group, therefore, reiterates its firm view that its consideration of any revised price adjustment applicable to the Regular Budget shall be contingent upon a corresponding level of price adjustment being applied to the TCF target for 2023, in accordance with the principle agreed since 2009 and as reaffirmed in the document GOV/2021/25.
6. Finally, the Group underscores that sufficient time must be given for Member States to address this complex issue in an inclusive, transparent, and consensus-based manner, including through appropriate mechanisms, such as a relevant inclusive working group, if necessary.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



## **Introductory Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane during the 66<sup>th</sup> IAEA General Conference, 26-30 September 2022**

### **Committee of the Whole**

Mr. Chairman, [Mr. Mandlenkosi Lunga BENGU, Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa]

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, let me at the outset congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole. It is great to see a distinguished member of the Group in this position. At the same time let me also thank the Secretariat for organizing this session.

2. The Group is confident that you will steer the COW with great skills and professionalism for its successful and fruitful conclusion. Be assured of the Group's full commitment and cooperation during this week's discussions and negotiations.

3. I wish to inform you that the Group of 77, has as in the past presented the following draft resolutions, which are before us for consideration of the COW:

- Strengthening the Agency's technical cooperation activities (Pakistan)
- Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (Philippines)
- Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications: Non-power nuclear applications:
  - General Part (India)
  - Support to the African Union's Pan Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC) (Nigeria)
  - Renovation of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf (South Africa)
  - Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) Project (South Africa)
  - Use of isotope hydrology for water resources management (India)
  - Development of the sterile insect technique for the control or eradication of malaria-, dengue- and other disease-transmitting mosquitoes; (Nigeria)
  - Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactors (Morocco)
  - Strengthening the support to Member States in food and agriculture (Indonesia)

4. With this, let me also thank the G-77 Force Coordinator, Mr. Amir Saeed, from the Permanent Mission of Pakistan for his remarkable and outstanding work in coordinating the Group for the last months, as well as the penholders of the G-77 Draft Resolutions for their efforts in preparation of this Conference.

5. I now kindly ask Mr. Amir Saeed to briefly explain the negotiation process and to introduce our first Draft Resolution on Technical Cooperation. During the next days the different penholders of the G-77 Draft Resolutions will be introducing the respective draft resolutions in due course.

5. Let me once again assure you, Mr. Chairman, of the Groups full commitment and good spirit of cooperation during the this week's deliberations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



## **Introductory Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane during the 66<sup>th</sup> IAEA General Conference, 26-30 September 2022**

### **Closing Plenary**

Mr. President, [H.E. Mr. Alessandro Cortese, Permanent Representative of Italy]

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, let me at the outset congratulate you Ambassador Cortese on your excellent leadership in chairing the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the IAEA General Conference. At the same time I wish to thank the Secretariat for their invaluable support in organizing this session.

2. I would also like to thank the Chairperson of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Mandlenkosi Lunga BENGU, Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa a distinguished member of our Group, as well as the Vice Chairperson Ms. Louise Flugger Callesen, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Denmark for her contribution during the difficult task of chairing the Committee.

3. The Group is proud to say that all ten G-77 and China draft resolutions have been adopted on the second day of the Conference and that they were co-sponsored by many delegations, which shows the commitment and importance of cooperation and dedication.

4. Finally, I also wish to thank my whole team, the G-77 Task Force Coordinator, the Office of the G-77, the penholders and all the delegations of the Group for their hard work and devotion.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**Introductory Remarks for the briefing by Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the IAEA on his Initiatives: 'Rays of Hope', 'NUTEC Plastics' and 'Zodiac delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of Morocco and Chairperson of the G-77 for 2022**

- In my capacity as the Chair of the Group of 77, dialogue and close interaction between the Group and Heads of the Vienna-based Organizations remains my priority. Today's meeting is a part of these efforts.
- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), with its mandate to promote the peaceful uses of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and its contribution to the pursuit of sustainable development, holds special significance for the G-77. As an association of developing countries, the G-77 attaches great importance to the IAEA's work.
- It is a matter of pride for us that Director General Rafael Grossi belongs to the G-77. He is one of our own. His presence with us today is a clear proof that the shared objectives, which bring the G-77 together, and the ideals which drive it, remain close to his heart.
- It is satisfying for the Group to note that under DG Grossi's leadership, the Agency has dynamically positioned itself to contribute to international efforts aimed at tackling the most pressing challenges and threats to sustainable development in our times.
- The three initiatives launched by the Agency – Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC), NUTEK Plastics and "Rays of Hope" – are timely and strategic. Through these initiatives, the Agency will contribute towards the preparation for and fight against future zoonotic disease outbreaks; tackle the scourge of marine plastic pollution and fight cancer in the most vulnerable countries. Needless to say, these initiatives are of great interest to the G-77.
- Today, DG Grossi will talk about these initiatives in greater detail and share updates on their implementation. I am confident that this briefing will enhance the Group's collective understating of these initiatives, in particular on how members of the Group can both contribute to and benefit from these initiatives.
- I kindly invite you DG to also support the work of the G-77, particularly in the light of the need to reinforce the office, especially taking into account to heavy workload ahead.

May first invite the DG for to deliver his briefing and then open the floor for comments and questions.

**In concluding** our meeting I wish to once again thank DG Grossi for his time with us and reassure him of our cooperation and support.



H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, G-77 Chairperson for 2022, in the G-77 Plenary Meeting on IAEA matters with Mr Rafael Grossi, Director General of IAEA, accompanied by Ms Annemarie Heuls, G-77 External Relations Officer  
Photo Credit: Dean Calma / IAEA





H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, G-77 Chairperson for 2022, in the G-77 Plenary Meeting on IAEA matters with Mr Rafael Grossi, Director General of IAEA, accompanied by Ms Annemarie Heuls, G-77 External Relations Officer  
Photo Credit: Dean Calma / IAEA



**List of resolutions submitted by Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and adopted by consensus by the IAEA General Conference during its Sixty-sixth regular session (26 to 30 September 2022)**

**Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities – (GC(66)/RES/8)**

- A. Strengthening the Agency's technical cooperation activities
- B. Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy

**Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications (GC(66)/RES/9)**

- A. Non-power nuclear applications:
  - 1. General
  - 2. Support to the African Union's Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC)
  - 3. Renovation of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf
  - 4. Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) Project
  - 5. Use of isotope hydrology for water resources management
  - 6. Development of the sterile insect technique package for the management of disease-transmitting mosquitoes
  - 7. Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactors
  - 8. Strengthening the support to Member States in food and agriculture



**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
ON DRUGS AND CRIME  
(UNODC)**



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China  
During the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,  
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of  
Morocco, Vienna, 14-18 March 2022**

Mr. Chair, [H.E. Ambassador Ghislain D'HOOP, Permanent Representative of Belgium]

1. The Group of 77 and China felicitates H.E. Ambassador Ghislain D'HOOP on his election as the Chair of the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission, as well as to the other elected members of the Bureau. The Group pledges to the Chair its full cooperation to make the present session a success.

2. The Group expresses once again its full support to H.E. Madam Ghada Waly, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, and looks forward to continue working with you to achieve more progress toward better policies and programs to effectively address and counter the world drug problem.

3. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation for the commendable efforts of the Chairperson and the Secretariat for carrying out the preparatory work and for finding a way to hold the Session under these difficult times as the World is still affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mr. Chair,

4. The Group reiterates that addressing and countering the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that should be undertaken in a multilateral setting through effective, concrete and increased regional, sub regional and international cooperation, based on an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach with a view to promoting and protecting the health, safety and well-being of all humanity.

5. The Group stresses the importance of international cooperation, enhanced capacity-building initiatives, programs and activities, provision of equipment and technology and technical assistance, particularly for developing countries, especially in these difficult times, in order for states to have sufficient resources to address and counter the world drug problem.

6. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and avoid promulgating and imposing any measures and actions on developing countries not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities to address and counter the world drug problem.

7. The Group recognizes the efforts undertaken by our authorities from the law enforcement, criminal justice, health, education and other relevant authorities, in addressing and countering the world drug problem.

8. The Group reiterates that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic

Substances of 1988, and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system.

9. The Group reaffirms its unwavering commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures, and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States.

Mr. Chair,

10. The Group reaffirms our commitments to prevent, significantly and measurably reduce or eliminate illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing, trafficking, of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as the diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors and money-laundering and illicit financial flows related to illicit drugs; as well as the illicit demand and abuse of drugs by promoting effective and comprehensive scientific evidence-based initiatives as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse.

11. The Group reiterates the need for strengthening international cooperation, in this regard, and also reaffirms the need to address drug-related socio-economic issues related to the illicit cultivation, manufacture and production of, and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term comprehensive and sustainable development oriented and balanced drug control policies and programs.

12. Transit States and other Member States continue to face multifaceted challenges, and the Group reaffirms the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance to, inter alia, enhance their capacities to effectively address and counter the world drug problem, in conformity with the 1988 Convention, and, as appropriate, the other Drug Control Conventions.

13. The Group remains fully committed to implementing the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, to addressing the general challenges and priorities for action identified in the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the High Level Review in March 2014, as well as implementing the UNGASS 2016 outcome document and the 2019 Ministerial Declaration.

14. The Group emphasizes the need for sustainable and sufficient resources for the UNODC to enhance its capacity-building initiatives, programs and activities particularly for developing countries upon their request, including for the provision of the equipment, technology and technical assistance.

15. The Group emphasizes the need for continuous support from UNODC to member states upon their request to enhance their national efforts to establish a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based approach to address and counter the world drug problem, especially on the implementation of the three international drug control conventions, and of all our international drug policy commitments.

16. The Group recognizes that there are persistent, new and evolving challenges that should be addressed in conformity with the three international drug control conventions, which allow for sufficient flexibility for States parties to design and implement national drug policies



according to their priorities and needs, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law.

Mr. Chair,

17. The Group reaffirms its determination to address and counter the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity, and reaffirm our determination to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse.

18. In this regard, the Group recognizes the importance of appropriately mainstreaming a gender and age perspective into drug-related policies and programmes and that appropriate emphasis should be placed on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, with a particular focus on women, children and youth, with a view to promoting and protecting health, including access to treatment, safety and the well-being of all humanity.

19. The Group of 77 and China emphasizes the need for the international community, in particular developed countries by providing means of implementation, to accelerate the ongoing efforts to address and counter the world drug problem.

Thank you for your attention.





**STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA AT THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF  
THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE,  
31<sup>st</sup> session from 16-20 MAY 2022  
DELIVERED BY H.E. AZZEDDINE FARHANE, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

Vienna, 16 May 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the CCPCJ, as well as to the other elected members of the Bureau. You can count on the full support of the Group for the successful conclusion of this meeting.

2. We also extend our thanks to the Secretariat for the excellent work done in preparation of this session.

3. We reaffirm our commitment towards the objectives set forth by the 14<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including by supporting the holding of the Commission's intersessional thematic discussion, and calls all Member States to continue their efforts for a balanced and integral implementation of the Kyoto Declaration in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to strengthen the work on the capacity-building, support and the provision of adequate, long-term, sustainable, effective and demand driven technical assistance.

Mr. Chair,

4. We reaffirm the need to enhance bilateral, regional, subregional and international cooperation in criminal matters aimed at preventing and combating transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism, including issues related to extradition and mutual legal assistance, and call upon Member States to adopt practical approaches that would facilitate such cooperation.

5. We reiterate our serious concern over any form of ranking of Member States for the purposes of international cooperation in criminal matters. We remain strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and avoid promulgating and imposing any measures and actions on developing countries not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities on crime prevention and criminal justice matters.

Mr. Chair,

6. We congratulate the Government of Egypt for successfully hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the COSP UNCAC, welcome its outcome documents and the progress made by States in implementing the Convention, including, inter alia, through the mechanism for the review of implementation of the UNCAC.

7. We reaffirm our commitment to the Political Declaration adopted during the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in June 2021 and look forward to the upcoming UNCAC intersessional meeting, in September 2022.

8. We reiterate the necessity to take urgent measures to prevent, prosecute and deter all forms of corruption, as well as the transfer abroad and laundering of assets derived from corruption, and to deny safe havens to any legal or natural person who has committed or is liable for an act of corruption, and the proceeds of the crime.

9. We insist on the need to strengthen international cooperation to effectively prevent and counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows and enhance measures for the identification, tracing, freezing, seizure, and recovery of the proceeds of crime or corruption, to deny them safe havens through their eventual confiscation as well as to speed up their recovery and return without restrictions and in accordance with Chapter V of the UNCAC..

10. We deeply regret that despite the very explicit articles of the UNCAC, there appears to be an increase in the barriers and challenges in the asset recovery process and their return to countries of origin, and in cases that make use of settlements, and in this regard, remind that States Parties shall afford one another the widest measures of international cooperation, and furthermore emphasize that the management, administration and utilization of returned assets is the responsibility of the requesting State and that recovered assets, shall be returned without conditionalities and in full respect of the sovereign rights of the States of origin. We further invite State Parties to address gaps within the international anticorruption framework particularly on asset recovery, and to consider the need of an additional protocol on asset recovery and the return as part of UNCAC.

11. We welcome the theme of the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the CCPCJ of "Strengthening the use of digital evidence in criminal justice and countering cybercrime, including the abuse and exploitation of minors in illegal activities with the use of the Internet".

12. We recognize the complex nature of cybercrime and welcome the successful holding of the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee and praise the able leadership of the Chair Ambassador Mebarki of Algeria and the assistance of the Secretariat. In this regard we will continue to actively participate in the elaboration of a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes within the framework of the United Nations, taking into full consideration existing national, regional and international instruments and efforts on combating the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes, taking into account, inter alia, the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

13. We attach great importance to combating Trafficking in Persons and any initiative to combat this crime should give due importance to addressing root causes, the prevention aspect, respecting the rights of the victims and promoting effective law enforcement, the demand aspect of this problem and providing assistance to victims, and groups in vulnerable situations, especially women and children. We therefore strongly call

attention to the necessity for a full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

14. We express concern over the constant violation of the rights of migrants and urges the international community to ensure that the human rights of smuggled migrants, particularly the unaccompanied children, are respected and that the safety and security of smuggled migrants are granted utmost priority regardless of their immigration status, nationality, gender, ethnicity, age or religion.

15. Regarding trafficking on firearms we reaffirm our concerns about the continuing problem of illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts, components and ammunition as another form of transnational organized crime.

16. We acknowledge any existing, increasing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime and other illicit activities, in particular drug trafficking and money laundering, illicit financial flows and terrorism and its financing, and reaffirm the need for enhancing bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including in the areas of exchange of information, extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with domestic legislation and with the aim to contributing to countering the threat posed by transnational organized crime.

Mr. Chair,

17. We call upon all Member States to develop and implement a comprehensive crime prevention and justice system policy, with a view to prevent the involvement of children in criminal activities and in this regard to integrate children's perspective into crime prevention policies and the overall rule of law efforts. The Group reiterates the importance of the use and application of the United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in support of effective, fair, humane, and accountable criminal justice systems, especially for women and children. In this regard, the Group encourages Member States to give due consideration to the Bangkok Rules, the Nelson Mandela Rules, as well as the Beijing Rules.

93 |

18. We deplore the rise of hate crimes around the world and in this regard underline the importance of respect for religious, ethnic and cultural diversity, and call for all States to promote a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations.

19. We wish to express our particular concern for the illicit trafficking of cultural property and related offences, including the involvement of organized criminal groups, which continues to inflict increasing damage to the cultural heritage of our nations, and thus, to part of our identities.

18. We underscore the need to address crimes that have a significant impact on protected species of wild fauna and flora such as, illegal mining, illicit trafficking in forest products, biological and natural resources, wildlife, as well as precious metals, in the respective fora.

20. We underscore the need to better understand and enhance our efforts, in accordance with each Member's national law, against the smuggling of commercial goods.

Mr. Chair,

21. On the issue of prevention of terrorism, the Group calls for strengthening international responses, in accordance with national legislation and the implementation

and application of the UNTOC, and all applicable regional and international counterterrorism legal instruments, as well as the comprehensive, balanced and effective implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. We strongly reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnicity, and reiterates that all efforts to counter it should be in line with international law.

22. We recognize the positive role played by the intergovernmental working group to improve the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (FINGOV) as an appropriate forum for a fruitful dialogue on UNODC's program development and implementation. We look forward for the achievement of the full potential of its current format.

23. We reiterate that UNODC needs adequate and sustainable resources to allow it to effectively implement an increasingly complex mandate. Therefore, we urge all States to increase their unconditional contributions, specifically to the General Purpose Fund of UNODC.

24. We stress the need to reinforce efforts on the Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters and express concern that equitable geographical representation from developing countries and gender balance is still to be achieved, especially at the senior and policy-making levels, are still unpair and adversely affect the highest standards of efficiency, technical competence, and integrity of the UNODC.

25. Therefore, we urge the Executive Director to intensify her efforts to ensure that adequate, and proper equitable geographical distribution and gender balance are fully incorporated, as principles, in the recruitment policy of UNODC, both at headquarters, and its Field Offices, particularly at the senior and policy-making levels and for professional posts requiring specific skills.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA STATEMENT AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE  
RECONVENED 65<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE CND AND THE RECONVENED 31<sup>st</sup>  
SESSION OF THE CCPCJ ON 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2022,**

**DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AZZEDDINE FARHANE,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

1. It is my pleasure to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on this joint meeting of the reconvened sessions of CCPCJ and the CND.
2. The Group appreciates Ambassador Takeshi Hikihara of Japan and Ambassador Ghislain D'Hoop of Belgium for their co-chairpersonship of the joint meeting of the two Commissions.
3. Allow me on behalf of the Group to express our appreciation for the Commissions Secretariat for the timely preparation of the sessions as well as the timely submission of the documents for our consideration.
4. The Group reiterates the significance of the 'standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime' (FINGOV) and the Group wishes to underscore the importance of its consolidation as the principal forum for communication and dialogue between Member States and UNODC's Secretariat, and where follow up to the Office's mandates implementation can be made in an open, inclusive, transparent, and regular manner.
5. The Group calls upon all to strive to take full advantage of the FINGOV in its new format for strengthening its methods of work, its agenda, and for making it even more dynamic. The Group welcomes the top management's engagement with FINGOV, encourages the participation of the Executive Director, Madame Ghada Fathi Waly and recalls the decision to have such meeting at least once a year, since this allows timely and dynamic responsiveness to the needs and concerns of States, particularly in times of rapid change.
6. The Group reiterates the importance of improving and expanding UNODC regional and country programmes and projects in developing countries and requests the UNODC to address the financial challenges and difficulties in the process of their full implementation.
7. The Group stresses that projects funded by voluntary contributions should be aligned with the UNODC's mandates and the Group member states' priorities to address the main global challenges in the fields of drugs and crime.
8. The Group calls upon UNODC to implement the consolidated budget, in a transparent, accessible and inclusive manner and, while welcoming voluntary contributions, the Group expresses its concern with the findings of the report of the Executive Director, which informs that ear-marked contributions have hindered the ability of UNODC to strategically manage its operations, improve upon its management processes, exercise effective corporate oversight, fund key activities and launch new initiatives and programmes.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

9. The Group reiterates the importance of adequate, predictable and stable funding for UNODC in order for the Office to enhance provision of technical assistance, capacity building and needed equipment in particular to developing countries, upon their request and priorities. In the same vein, the Group emphasizes the need for efficient utilization of such resources to ensure long-term sustainability.

10. The Group requests the Secretariat to keep Member States regularly informed and engaged regarding the implementation, effects and implications of the UN reform process on the Office's work, including the UN Development System Reform, and the UN Management System Reform and requests the Executive Director to report to the upcoming sessions of the Commissions on this issue. So far, progress has been made, but more systematic, concrete and friendly readable information is needed, not only on UNODC's headquarters efforts and implications, but specially on how these reforms have affected and improved its work on the field.

11. The UNODC's research work should be based on clear and prior mandates and policy guidance provided by the Governing Bodies. The Group would also like to emphasize the need for transparency, regular dialogue and close consultations between Member States and UNODC regarding the ongoing and planned publications and research activities at all stages.

12. The Group welcomes the UNODC's efforts to improve the validity, reliability and accuracy of research sources and methodology, including through engagement of member states in collection of data in drug and crime. In this regard, the Group would like to emphasise that data provided by member states should be properly considered as an essential basis for UNODC's research activities, while noting the contributions that other sources can make.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

13. The Group requests the Executive Director of UNODC to ensure equitable and geographical representation, enhanced participation of women, as well as to redouble efforts towards gender equality and women's empowerment in all areas of its mandate with due recognition of the qualifications of candidates.

14. The Group also requests the Executive Director of UNODC to report regularly on the progress of such measures to the Commissions.

15. The Group reaffirms that the principle of equitable geographical representation, which has been enshrined in the UN Charter, should apply to posts within the UN Secretariat regardless of the source of funding, and underlines the importance of respecting and implementing this principle in the composition of UNODC staff including in regional and national senior management officers.

16. The Group urges UNODC to take serious and concrete measures to improve the representation of developing countries in line with General Assembly resolutions and to report in details and disaggregated by nationality on the progress of such measures to the Commissions, particularly on the work done by UNODC on the matter.

17. The Group recalls that multilingualism, as a core value of the UN, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the Organization, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations and emphasizes the paramount importance of the equality of the six



official languages of the United Nations. The Group calls upon the UNODC to continue and reinforce its efforts in this regard and urges to take the appropriate measures to implement current multilingualism policies.

18. In conclusion, the Group recognizes the need for an early preparation of the Commissions for the next regular meetings in 2023. The Group is of the firm belief that we should not shorten the time for substantive discussions and taking action on all agenda items related to the world drug problem and crime prevention and criminal justice, in a format agreeable to all. Therefore, the Group calls upon the Commissions to take the lead in the international responses to the multiple changing and evolving manifestations of crime, moreover in times of crisis.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.



**G-77 and China Statement during the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 11<sup>th</sup> session, 17-21 October 2022, delivered by H.E. Mr. Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Morocco**

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It is my pleasure to express our sincere congratulations to you, a member of our Group, on your election as the President of the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. I also wish to extend our heartfelt felicitations to the members of the Bureau for their election. Rest assured of our full support and cooperation for the successful conclusion of this Session.

2. The Group would like to take this opportunity to thank Egypt, another member of our Group, particularly, H.E. Ambassador Elmolla and his team for their leadership and commitment during the Conference for the past two years.

3. The Group also wishes to thank the Secretariat for the organization and preparation for this session of the Conference.

Mr. President,

4. In order to respect the limitation of time I will have to read parts of the Group's statement and we would like to ask the Rapporteur to reflect in the report of the Conference all elements that we submitted in our written statement.

5. Since the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the protocols thereto, the Group has been focusing its efforts on maintaining the principles, goals and spirit, as well as on promoting its full and effective implementation. We are certain that this important international legal instrument is the corner stone of the international cooperation in the fight against the serious and growing problem of transnational organized crime. On this occasion the Group highlights the importance of promoting ratifications of the UNTOC and the Protocols thereto, which will allow Member States to strengthen cooperation in addressing this scourge.

Mr. President,

6. The Group highlights the importance of conducting the review process of the implementation in a timely manner and in accordance with its Guiding principles and characteristics, as set out in the Annex of resolution 9/1.

Mr. President,

7. The Group affirms the important work of the open-ended intergovernmental Working Groups on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants, Firearms, Technical Assistance, and International Cooperation and we appreciate the continuous contributions of the working groups to the Conference.

8. The Group wishes to underscore that the full, balanced and effective implementation of the Convention and its Protocols requires a strengthened commitment to fully implement UNTOC's international cooperation and technical assistance

obligations. The Group considers that efforts to counter all modalities of transnational organized crime should be comprehensive and integrated, considering the dimensions of prevention and effective law enforcement, as well as assistance to the victims, and taking into account the observation and respect for the rule of law and the promotion and protection of all human rights.

Mr. President,

9. The Group wishes to express its concern for the illicit trafficking of cultural property and related offences, including the growing involvement of organized criminal groups, and terrorist groups, which continues to inflict increasing damage to the cultural heritage of our nations, and thus, to part of our identities. In this regard, the Group stresses the need to enhance efforts to combat this crime and to implement, in accordance with domestic legal frameworks, as well as the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses with Respect to trafficking in cultural property and other related offenses, adopted by the General Assembly. The Group calls for availing the needed resources for the implementation of the relevant resolutions, including Resolution 10/7, of the Conference.

10. The Group recognizes the complex nature of crime involving use of information and communication technologies and will continue to actively participate in the implementation of UN GA Resolution 74/247 and 75/282. The Group welcomes the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee (AHC) to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Combating the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes through the past 3 negotiating sessions and appreciates the efforts of the Chair of the AHC, H.E. Ambassador Faouzia Mebarki, Permanent Representative of Algeria and her team, as well as the Secretariat in this regard.

11. The Group highlights the critical importance of a comprehensive and well-balanced negotiating document as the basis for the upcoming negotiating sessions, taking into full consideration the concerns and interests of the developing countries. The Group requests the Secretariat to mobilize and allocate sufficient resources to continue to organize and support the work of the AHC, including ensuring financial assistance for the participation of the developing countries, especially those that do not have resident representation in Vienna, in the work of the AHC.

99 |

12. We would also like to underscore the challenges posed by new, emerging and evolving forms of transnational organized crime, such as, smuggling of commercial goods, illegal mining in precious metals, trafficking in wildlife and timber that have a significant impact on the environment and/or the development of the States.

13. The Group welcomes the adoption of resolution 31/1 during the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, entitled “Strengthening the international legal framework for international cooperation to prevent and combat illicit trafficking in wildlife”, encourages Member States and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen their efforts towards its full implementation.

14. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations Development System and avoid imposing measures and actions on developing countries not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities to address and counter the transnational organized crimes.

Mr. President,

15. The Group reaffirms the need of full and effective implementation of the Convention including through international cooperation, particularly in the area of mutual legal assistance, exchange of information, extradition and identification, confiscation, seizure, recovery, unconditional return of assets and repatriation of proceeds of crime to Countries of origin with the aim to contribute to combating the threats posed by transnational organized crime.

16. The Group firmly believes that technical assistance is a key and crosscutting issue throughout the Convention, and its provision is an essential part of the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention. Requesting State Parties should be provided with technical assistance including through the UNODC, especially for the benefit of developing countries. To this end, appropriate funding mechanisms need to be developed. The Group also highlights the value of the expertise existing in developing countries in combating transnational organized crime.

17. The Group also highlights the importance of international cooperation, including South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to enhance capabilities of Member States to implement crime prevention and criminal justice programs in this framework. In this context, we would like to underline the importance of supporting capacity building and the provision of adequate, long-term, sustainable, effective and demand driven technical assistance in collaboration with UNODC. Accordingly, sufficient, stable and predictable funding is necessary.

Mr. President,

18. The Group emphasizes the need for enhancing meaningful and result-oriented international cooperation in the area of asset recovery, and the seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime and their unconditional return to countries of origin, through all available legal mechanisms, including civil and administrative proceedings, non-trial resolutions and settlements that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return.

19. The Group highlights once more the importance of adequate financial and administrative support for full, efficient and effective implementation of the activities assigned to the UNODC. Additionally, assuring a sufficient and stable funding to the Conference, Mechanism of the Review and to UNODC is essential to promote programmes and projects which, at the request of the benefiting country, provides the proper technical assistance to implement the Convention. The Group expresses concern over the increasing dependence of UNODC on extra budgetary resources, and therefore, reiterates that the core activities of the Office should be funded from the regular budget.

Mr. President,

20. The Group acknowledges the increasing links between transnational organized crime and other illicit activities; including drug related crime, corruption, money laundering and illicit financial flows, as well as the links that, in some cases, exist with terrorist crimes and their financing. Accordingly, the Group reaffirms the need for enhanced bilateral, regional and international cooperation in the area of exchange of information, extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with domestic legislation.

21. On the particular issue of prevention of terrorism, and in order to face this challenge, the Group calls for strengthening international responses, in accordance with national legislation inter-alia, through more effective implementation and application of the Convention, and all applicable regional and international counter-terrorism legal instruments, as well as the balanced and effective implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. The Group calls upon UNODC and requested Member States to continue to assist requesting Member States with technical assistance to build capacity

and strengthen cooperation at sub-regional, regional and international levels, in order to effectively respond to the new strategies employed by terrorist organizations. The Group strongly reaffirms that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnicity, and reiterates that all efforts to counter it should be in line with international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

22. Finally, the Group acknowledges that sustainable development and the rule of law are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing. In this regard, the Group emphasizes the need for the, balanced and effective implementation of the 2030 agenda, recognizing its integrated, indivisible, global nature and universal application.

Thank you, Mr. President.



**Briefing by Ms. Ghada Waly, Director General and Executive Director of  
UNOV/UNODC with G-77 Ambassadors and delegates  
Opening remarks delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent  
Representative of Morocco and Chairperson of the G-77 for 2022  
Thursday, 5 May 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**

Excellencies

Madam Ghada Waly, Director General and Executive Director of UNOV/UNODC

First of all, I would like to warmly thank your Excellency Madam Ghada Waly for addressing the G77, for the first time, in an in-person meeting, and to interact with the G77 about your priorities and UNODC strategies launched during the difficult times of the COVID 19 pandemic. In my capacity as the Chairperson of the Group of 77, **positive consultations, productive dialogue and close interaction** between the Group and Heads of the Vienna-based Organizations remains my priority. **Today's meeting with your Excellency is a part of these efforts.**

It is really **a matter of pride for us that Director General and Executive Director of UNOV/UNODC Madam Ghada Waly belongs to the G-77 family.** Your presence with us today is a **clear message that the shared objectives, which bring the G-77 together, and the ideals which drive it, remain close to you.**

It is satisfying for the Group to note that under your leadership, UNODC has launched a **Strategic vision for Africa 2030 and Latin America and the Caribbean for 2022-2025**, as well as the implementation of the ambitious Regional Program (RP) for **2022-2026 for the Southeast Asia and Pacific region (SEAP).** These strategies aim, *grosso modo*, at **strengthening crime prevention, enhancing justice system, ensuring a balanced response to drugs, improving the rule of law, bolstering resilience and contributing, in fine, efficiently to international efforts for tackling the most pressing challenges and threats to sustainable development in our times.**

The G77 countries belong to a **region characterized by its asymmetry in terms of development**, aggravated by the COVID19 pandemic, **which triggers the emergence of problems in some regions and countries and opportunities in others**, especially in the field of **local capacity building and strengthening of national institutions.**

The G77 considers UNODC as a **valid and necessary partner.** **Close cooperation and collaborative approach** could facilitate the achievement of sustainable development goals, by strengthening the **UNODC presence in G77 countries space**, through its regional and country offices, **by increasing its technical, material and human capacity, deepening and broadening the areas of action within the scope of the UNODC mandate.**

Today, DG Waly will talk **about UNODC priorities and initiatives** in details and share updates on their implementation. I am confident that this briefing will enhance **the Group's collective understating of these initiatives**, in particular on how members of the G77 can both contribute to and benefit from these initiatives.

May I first invite your Excellency to brief the Group and then I will open the floor for comments and questions from delegations.

Madam Director General, the floor is yours.





H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, G-77 Chairperson for 2022, in the G-77 Plenary Meeting on UNODC matters with Ms Ghada Fathi Waly, Director-General/ Executive Director of UNOV/UNODC





**STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA AT THE LAUNCH OF THE  
UNOV/UNODC STRATEGY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S  
EMPOWERMENT 2022-2026, 15 JUNE 2022  
DELIVERED BY H.E. AZZEDDINE FARHANE, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

His Excellency Ambassador Markovic,  
Mme. Executive Director,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, allow me to thank you for the invitation to attend this honorable meeting focused on the gender equality and women's empowerment. You can count on the support of the Group for the successful implementation of the strategy 2022-2026.

2. Gender equality is a common objective that is based on our unequivocal conviction on the equal rights of women, men, girls and boys, as it has been recognised in Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. The Group is concerned with the current situation of the gender equality and women's empowerment around the world, and in this regard, would like to highlight the particular challenge faced by developing countries, where insufficient educational, economic and technological opportunities aggravate poverty and gender inequality.

4. The Group welcomes the UNOV/UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2022-2026 and requests the Executive Director of UNODC to ensure equitable and geographical representation, enhanced participation of women, especially from developing countries, particularly at senior and policymaking levels, and to report on the progress of such measures to the Commissions.

5. The Group reaffirms that the principle of equitable geographical representation, which has been enshrined in the UN Charter, should apply to posts within the UN Secretariat regardless of the source of funding, and underlines the importance of respecting and implementing this principle in the composition of UNODC staff.

6. The Group also requests the Executive Director to consider the insertion of relevant projects of UNODC, in a consultative, open, transparent and inclusive manner, aiming at the improvement of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the developing countries, upon request.

7. Finally the Group encourages UNODC to continue working in order to achieve the implementation of the Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2022-2026.

Thank you.



**COMPREHENSIVE  
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY  
ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)**



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Preparatory Commission, 27 – 28 June 2022, delivered by H.E. Ms. Belén Constanza SAPAG MUÑOZ DE LA PEÑA, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Chile**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group is pleased to see you, Ambassador Darío Ernesto Chirú Ochoa, chairing the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom). The Group takes this opportunity to renew to you, Ambassador, its full support and cooperation. Furthermore, the Group expresses its reassurances to the PrepCom in executing its tasks in the most efficient and effective manner.
2. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary for his opening remarks, takes note of his reports and expresses its appreciation to the Provisional Technical Secretariat for preparing documents and making them available for this session in a timely manner.
3. The Group is deeply saddened by the loss of so many lives globally due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and expresses its solidarity with all countries as they battle with the effects of the pandemic. COVID-19 showed that new challenges have global effects which require universal coordinated response that necessitates cooperation in all domains among all States to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, through a multilateral approach.

Mr. Chair,

4. The Group is pleased to note that, since our last Prepcom, two countries, Tuvalu and The Gambia, have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and one country, Dominica, has signed the CTBT, bringing the number of State Signatories to 186 and of Ratifiers to 172. In view of the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference, the Group reiterates its full support for the CTBT and stresses the need for an early Entry Into Force of the Treaty and its universalization, with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
5. The Group continues to express its concern on any possible planning and preparation for nuclear test explosions. Any nuclear tests explosion would not only break the global moratorium, but severely undermine the Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and international peace and security. The Group calls upon all States to observe nuclear test moratoria and to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to general, complete and irreversible nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Mr. Chair,

6. On Agenda item 3, the Group takes note of the report of Working Group A at the 61<sup>st</sup> session thanks the Ambassador Nguyen Trung Kien of Viet Nam for presenting the report.
7. The Group would like to reiterate some points expressed during the last Working Group A session. In this regard:



(a) The Group strongly underlines the importance of promoting a balanced approach and appropriate allocation of resources among the three dimensions of the verification regime namely the International Monitoring System, the International Data Centre and On-Site Inspection. The Group encourages the PTS to allocate sufficient resources to the OSI to ensure its readiness upon EIF of the Treaty and we note the OSI table top exercise conducted last 14 June.

(b) While appreciating the efforts made by the PTS, which are aimed at identifying and implementing measures to increase efficiency and savings to the extent possible, the Group reiterates the importance of ensuring that any savings do not jeopardize the effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities, nor affects the quality of these capacity building activities which aim at increasing the capabilities of States Signatories to participate in the verification regime.

(c) The Group takes note that some technical meetings, workshops, training courses and exercises towards capacity building activities, were postponed due to COVID-19. The Group however expresses its concern that the implementation rate of the Capacity Building Fund remains low. In this regard, the Group calls on the PTS to implement necessary measures to rectify this anomaly and bring capacity building activities to required levels.

(d) The Group notes the progress with regards to making a large proportion of the training modules available in all United Nations official languages. The Group reiterates the importance of the allocation of resources for a project-based action plan that includes regional and multilingual dimensions, as well as assessment mechanisms, as was previously requested by the Working Group (B) of the Preparatory Commission at its 52<sup>nd</sup> Session (CTBT/PC-52/WGB/1).

(e) The Group emphasizes the importance of promoting multilingualism in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies as well as in the PTS. The Group requests the PTS to report on progress made at its 60<sup>th</sup> session.

107 |

Mr Chair,

8. On agenda item 4, the Group also takes note of the report of the Working Group B at its 58<sup>th</sup> Session and thanks Dr. Erlan Batyrbekov for presenting the report.

9. The Group strongly emphasizes the importance it attaches to capacity-building and training and to the various activities carried out by the PTS in this field as a means of improving the ability of States Signatories, in particular developing countries, to fully participate in the Treaty's verification regime.

10. The Group reiterates its support for the pilot project, which facilitates the participation of experts from developing countries in the WGB sessions and it presents an opportunity to advance the participation of professional women in the Organization. The Group is convinced that such participation greatly contributes to capacity-building in our countries and to achieving wider participation of all States Signatories in the decision-making process and ownership of the Commission.

11. The Group would like to reaffirm that any activities related to the funding, maintenance, and provisional operation of the IMS stations by the PTS, and any related action or decision by the Prepcom, should respect the decisions of the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the territorial integrity of States. The Group highlights the importance to engage in

construction, maintenance and/or relocation of IMS facilities with full respect of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

12. On agenda item 5, the Group takes note of the report of the Advisory Group at its 58<sup>th</sup> session and appreciates the recommendations contained therein. The Group also reiterates its appreciation for the efforts and expertise of the Advisory Group in providing necessary observation, conclusion, and recommendations on issues related to the associated administrative, budgetary and financial matters.

13. The Group appreciates the efforts by Mr. Pedro Penha Brasil from Brazil Acting Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Group in ensuring a continued functioning of the Group. Furthermore, the Group looks forward to a consensual decision on the next Chairperson of the Advisory Group, as well as the decision on procedures for the appointment of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Advisory Group.

Mr Chair,

14. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance and reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies as well as in the PTS. In this regard, the Group is concerned that geographical, gender representation and women participation at the Professional and Higher levels remains low. The Group takes this opportunity to continue requesting the Executive Secretary to significantly improve geographical, gender representation, and women participation within the Organization and at all levels of responsibility, using new and existing tools bearing in mind the persistent underrepresentation of developing countries in the staff composition of the PTS, and the need to take appropriate measures to address this issue.

15. The Group looks forward to finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, as a matter of priority at the next in person session of the PrepCom. In this connection, the Group appreciates the work carried out by the previous Co-facilitators Ambassador Molekane of South Africa and Ambassador Laggner of Switzerland. The Group expects the PTS to act in accordance with its mandate and stresses that the postponement of the deadline for this decision is directly linked to the temporary changes in the format and modality of meetings of the PrepCom in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

16. The Group welcomes the designation of Ambassador Carlos Sérgio Sobral Duarte, Permanent Representative of Brazil, as facilitator for developing guidelines for holding non-scheduled sessions of the Commission and takes note of the latter's proposal on the matter.

17. Finally, the Group of 77 and China looks forward to a constructive deliberation and timely conclusion of the work of this Session of the Preparatory Commission.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.





**Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Preparatory Commission, 21 – 23 November 2022, delivered by H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Morocco**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group is pleased to see you, Ambassador Darío Ernesto Chirú Ochoa, chairing the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom). The Group takes this opportunity to renew to you, Ambassador, its full support and cooperation. Furthermore, the Group expresses its reassurances to the PrepCom in executing its tasks in the most efficient and effective manner.
2. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Director for his opening remarks, takes note of his reports and expresses its appreciation to the Provisional Technical Secretariat for preparing documents and making them available for this session in a timely manner.
3. The Group is deeply saddened by the loss of so many lives globally due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and expresses its solidarity with all countries as they battle with the effects of the pandemic. COVID-19 showed that new challenges have global effects which require universal coordinated response that necessitates cooperation in all domains among all States to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, through a multilateral approach.

Mr. Chair,

4. The Group is pleased to note that since our meeting of June, four countries, all from the G-77, namely, Dominica, Timor-Leste, Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe, have ratified the CTBT, bringing the number of State Signatories to 186 and of Ratifiers to 176. The Group stresses the need for an early Entry Into Force of the CTBT and underlines the importance of all possible efforts to be made to achieve the universalization of the Treaty, with the ultimate goal to eliminate nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control
5. The Group takes note of the statement of the Executive Secretary at the 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference in New York. The Group would like to highlight the inextricable link between the CTBT and the NPT as mutually reinforcing legal instruments of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. We reaffirm the role of the NPT and the CTBT in furthering nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament both vertical and horizontal.
6. The Group continues to express its concern on any possible planning and preparation for nuclear test explosions. Any nuclear tests explosion would not only break the global moratorium, but severely undermine the Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and international peace and security. The Group calls upon all States to observe nuclear test moratoria and to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to general, complete and irreversible nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Mr. Chair,

7. On Agenda item 3, the Group takes note of the report of Working Group A at the 62<sup>nd</sup> session thanks the Ambassador Nguyen Trung Kien of Viet Nam for presenting the report.

8. The Group would like to reiterate some points expressed during the last Working Group A session. In this regard:

(a) The Group welcomes the efforts of the PTS in mitigating the impact of the high inflation rate through combination of the identified savings and efficiencies with the higher estimate of miscellaneous income leading to a reduction in the total amount of the 2023 contributions from State Signatories.

(b) While appreciating the efforts of the PTS in identifying and implementing measures to increase efficiency and savings to the extent possible, the Group reiterates the importance of ensuring that any savings do not jeopardize the effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities, nor affects the quality of these capacity building activities. The Group further requests the PTS to provide a detailed report on planned savings and efficiencies for 2023 and projected savings and efficiencies in preparation for the 2024-2025 biennium by the 63<sup>rd</sup> WGA session.

(c) The Group strongly underlines the importance of promoting a balanced approach and appropriate allocation of resources among the three dimensions of the verification regime namely the International Monitoring System, the International Data Centre and On-Site Inspection.

(d) While appreciating the efforts made by the PTS, which are aimed at identifying and implementing measures to increase efficiency and savings to the extent possible, the Group reiterates the importance of ensuring that any savings do not jeopardize the effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities, nor affects the quality of these capacity building activities which aim at increasing the capabilities of States Signatories to participate in the verification regime.

(e) The Group notes the progress with regards to making a large proportion of the training modules available in all United Nations official languages. The Group reiterates the importance of the allocation of resources for a project-based action plan that includes regional and multilingual dimensions, as well as assessment mechanisms, as was previously requested by the Working Group (B) of the Preparatory Commission at its 52<sup>nd</sup> Session (CTBT/PC-52/WGB/1).

(f) The Group takes note that some technical meetings, workshops, training courses and exercises towards capacity building activities, were postponed due to COVID-19. The Group however expresses its concern that the implementation rate of the Capacity-Building Fund remains low. In this regard, the Group calls on the PTS to implement necessary measures to rectify this anomaly and bring capacity building activities to required levels.

Mr Chair,

9. On agenda item 4, the Group also takes note of the report of the Working Group B at its 59<sup>th</sup> Session and thanks Dr. Erlan Batyrbekov for presenting the report. In this regard:

(a) The Group strongly emphasizes the importance it attaches to capacity-building and training and to the various activities carried out by the PTS in this field as a means of improving the ability of States Signatories, in particular developing countries, to fully participate in the Treaty's verification regime, as well as dedicating adequate financial resources for these activities.

(b) The Group expresses its support for initiatives, such as the pilot project, that facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in the WGB sessions, as well as the National Data Centers for All (NDCs4All) Initiative. The Group is convinced that such participation will greatly contribute to capacity-building in our countries and to achieving

wider participation of all States Signatories in the decision-making process and ownership of the Commission.

(c) Reaffirming the provisions of the Establishing Resolution and the independent nature of the Prepcom, the Group would like to reaffirm that any activities related to the funding, maintenance, and provisional operation of the IMS stations must respect the mandate of the PTS, and any related action or decision by the Prepcom, should fully respect the purposes and principles of the United Nations, including those on the territorial integrity of the States. In view of this, the Group highlights the importance to engage in construction, maintenance and/or relocation of IMS facilities fully in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

10. On agenda item 5, the Group takes note of the report of the Advisory Group at its 59<sup>th</sup> session and the recommendations contained therein. The Group appreciates the Advisory Group's efforts and expertise in providing necessary observations, conclusions and recommendations on issues related to the administrative, budgetary and financial matters.

Mr Chair,

11. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism. The Group reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies, as well as in the PTS. In this regard, the Group is concerned that geographical, gender representation and women participation at the Professional and higher levels remains low. The Group takes this opportunity to continue requesting the Executive Secretary to significantly improve geographical, gender representation, and women participation within the Organization and at all levels of responsibility, using new and existing tools bearing in mind the persistent underrepresentation of developing countries in the staff composition of the PTS, and the need to take appropriate measures to address this issue.

12. The Group emphasizes the importance of promoting multilingualism in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies as well as in the PTS. The Group requests the PTS to report on progress made at its 60<sup>th</sup> session.

13. Recognizing the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, the Group affirms the paramount importance of youth participation in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies, as well as in the PTS activities.

14. The Group welcomes the preparations for the Science Diplomacy Symposium, as well as Snt2023 and notes that these events are effective platforms for exchange of knowledge and ideas between the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO and the broader scientific and diplomatic communities.

15. The Group also recalls the guidelines contained within document CTBT/PTS-INF.1635 and encourages the PTS to coordinate with the other Secretariats of the Vienna based International Organizations (VBOs), to ensure that major meetings do not coincide, as well as to avoid an overlap, to the extent possible, with major sessions of the VBOs and any major public holiday.

16. The Group looks forward to finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, as a matter of priority at the next in person session of the PrepCom. In this connection, the Group appreciates the work carried out by the previous Co-facilitators Ambassador Molekane of South Africa and Ambassador Laggner of Switzerland. The Group expects the PTS to act in accordance with its mandate and stresses that the

postponement of the deadline for this decision is directly linked to the temporary changes in the format and modality of meetings of the PrepCom in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

17. The Group looks forward to finalizing guidelines for holding non-scheduled sessions of the Commission and takes note of the latter's proposal on the matter. The Group appreciates the work carried out by Ambassador Carlos Sérgio Sobral Duarte from Brazil, as facilitator. The Group remains ready to engage in these consultations.

18. Finally, the Group of 77 and China looks forward to a constructive deliberation and timely conclusion of the work of this Session of the Preparatory Commission.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 AND CHINA STATEMENT DURING THE SIXTY FIRST SESSION OF  
WORKING GROUP A,  
2 – 3 JUNE 2022, DELIVERED BY H.E. AZZEDDINE FARHANE, AMBASSADOR,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China congratulates you, Ambassador Nguyen Trung Kien on your appointment as Chair of Working Group A and would like to thank you for chairing this meeting and assures you of its full support and cooperation.

2. The Group is deeply saddened by the loss of so many lives globally due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and expresses its solidarity with all countries as they battle with the effects of the pandemic. The Group is of the view that global cooperation is important acknowledging that no one is safe until everyone is safe.

3. The Group is of the view that, this is a time for the international community, to demonstrate its capability to work together in solidarity to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. The international community must unite in its efforts to ensure access to scientific guidance, training, equipment, essential medical supplies, and concrete life-saving services to countries in greatest need and in regions where the full impact is yet to be felt. Cooperation to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, including through a multilateral approach, should be strengthened and intensified. The Group welcomes the Organization's business continuity, flow of data and data products despite restrictions caused by COVID-19 and expresses its gratitude for the efforts of the PTS in this regard.

4. The Group welcomes the election of Ambassador Ramiro Recinos Trejo Deputy Permanent Representative of El Salvador as one of its Vice-Chairpersons of the PREPCOM for 2022 and the designation of Ambassador Carlos Sérgio Sobral Duarte, Permanent Representative of Brazil, as facilitator for developing guidelines for holding non-scheduled sessions of the Commission.

5. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary Dr. Robert Floyd for his opening remarks. The Group takes note of the Executive Secretary's report on verification related activities for the period July to December 2021, the Annual Report 2021 and the report on non-verification related activities for the period from January to March 2022.

6. The Group would like also to extend its appreciation to the PTS for the timely issuance of documents for this session.

Mr. Chair,

7. The Group is pleased to note that since our last meeting, two countries, Tuvalu and The Gambia, have ratified the CTBT, and one country, namely Dominica has signed the CTBT, bringing the number of State Signatories to 186 and of Ratifiers to 172. The Group stresses the need for an early Entry Into Force of the CTBT and underlines the importance of all possible efforts to be made to achieve the universalization of the Treaty, with the ultimate goal to eliminate nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. The 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Treaty for signature should be a rallying point towards this end. In this regard, the Group welcomes the convening of the 2021 Article XIV Conference on facilitating the EIF of the Treaty, which took place in New

York on 23 September 2021 and takes note of the adoption of the final Declaration of the Conference. The Group appreciates the efforts by States Signatories in this regard and thanks the PTS for organizing this event. The Group also commends the efforts undertaken by South Africa and Italy as Co-Presidents.

Mr. Chair,

8. Regarding agenda item 3, the Group takes note of the report of the Advisory Group at its 58<sup>th</sup> session and the recommendations contained therein (CTBT/AG-58/1). The Group appreciates the Advisory Group's efforts and expertise in providing necessary observations, conclusions and recommendations on issues related to the administrative, budgetary and financial matters.

9. The Group takes note of the Financial Statements of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for 2021 (CTBT/PTS/INF.1617) and the 2020-2021 Programme and Budget Performance Report, as contained in document (CTBT/PTS/INF.1619 Volume 1 and Volume 2) Moreover, the Group thanks the PTS and would like to present the following comments regarding proposals, financial and budgetary decision:

(a) The Group takes note of the document 2023 Budget Update Proposals: Initial Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1616) in which it is indicated that the total 2023 Budget at estimated 2023 prices is \$ 129 463 700 in notional US\$ equivalent value, with an overall weighted average price adjustment of 2.14%. The Group notes as well that most of the 2023 Budget is allocated to verification activities (81.4%);

(b) While appreciating the efforts made by the PTS, which are aimed at identifying and implementing measures to increase efficiency and savings to the extent possible, the Group reiterates the importance of ensuring that any savings do not jeopardize the effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities, nor affects the quality of these capacity building activities which aim at increasing the capabilities of States Signatories to participate in the verification regime. Therefore, the Group reiterates its position that capacity building activities should be funded in a sufficient manner through the Regular Budget. The Group requests the PTS to continue providing information, documents and organizing briefings on this subject during inter-sessional periods;

(c) The Group strongly underlines the importance of promoting a balanced approach and appropriate allocation of resources among the three dimensions of the verification regime namely the International Monitoring System, the International Data Centre and On-Site Inspection. In this regard, the Group takes note that the share allocated to the OSI programme in the document 2023 Budget Update Proposals: Initial Draft would have decreased from 8.6% to 8.5 percent compared to the 2022 Regular Budget, while the share allocated to the IMS programme would have increased from 31,8% to 32,2%;

(d) The Group takes note of the decision on the carry forward of the Capital Investment Fund (CIF) and Multiyear Funds unspent balances of 31 December 2021 to the financial period 2022, as soon as they are audited and approved;

(e) The Group is of the view that since the plan of exercises for the years 2019-2021 was not carried out as foreseen in the "On-Site Inspection Exercise Plan for 2016-2020" due to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, it remains the responsibility of the PTS to revise the abovementioned plan and present it to the next Working Group B (WGB) session for consideration. In view of this, to prepare for the next IFE, the Group requests the Secretariat to convene necessary Expert Meetings during 2022 to define the projects and elaborate the exercise plan based on challenging scenarios to be held in the future;



(f) The Group requests the PTS to further develop the OSI e-Library, based on the lessons learned from exercises, in addition to providing access to the OSI e-library to the authorized experts from States Signatories;

(g) The Group notes the progress with regards to making a large proportion of the training modules available in all United Nations official languages. The Group reiterates the importance of the allocation of resources for a project-based action plan that includes regional and multilingual dimensions, as well as assessment mechanisms, as was previously requested by the Working Group (B) of the Preparatory Commission at its 52<sup>nd</sup> Session (CTBT/PC-52/WGB/1).

10. The Group takes note that some technical meetings, workshops, training courses and exercises towards capacity building activities, were postponed due to COVID-19. The Group however, expresses its concern that the implementation rate of the Capacity Building Fund remains low. In this regard, the Group calls on the PTS to implement necessary measures to rectify this anomaly and bring capacity building activities to required levels. Furthermore, the Group is looking forward to the report of the quality assessment of training provided as well as measures that will be undertaken to support the participation of developing countries in virtual training programmes. The Group reiterates its request for the Secretariat to submit to the WGA and WGB a detailed report on planned and previously approved activities that were not carried out in the period 2020-2021, including any major changes, upgrades or the overlap of the two Programme and Budgets of 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 in the new draft program and budget document. The Group would also like to highlight that those activities, that are already budgeted should be rescheduled as soon as circumstances allow.

11. The Group commends the PTS for hosting a successful 2021 Science and Technology Conference in a hybrid format on 28 June to 2 July 2021. The Conference which was anchored on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Treaty for signature, set new records with a participation rate of 1600 participants from 150 countries. It also provided an opportunity for scientists, including those from developing countries, to share experiences and knowledge. We look forward to the report on the Conference at an early date and the identification of lessons learned that could be applied in other functions of the CTBTO. The Group takes note of the document Preliminary Report for the Fifty-Eighth Session of Working Group B on the CTBT: Science and Technology 2021 Conference (ECS/WGB-58/PTS/13).

115 |

Mr. Chair,

12. The Group takes note of the documents Equal Employment Opportunities – Women in the Provisional Technical Secretariat as of 31 December 2021 (CTBT/PTS/INF.1622) and Human Resources Management Report (CTBT/PTS/INF.1626). In this regard, the Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance and reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom, its subsidiary bodies, particularly when it comes to the Staff of the Organization, especially, at the Professional and higher levels, as important considerations in the recruitment process. The Group remains seriously concerned with the low level of representation of developing countries in the PTS and requests the PTS to make all necessary efforts to bring geographical representation to equitable levels.

13. The Group takes note of the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, including the achievement of gender balance at the director level of the PTS. The Group however remains concerned that gender representation at Professional level remains low at 37%. The Group requests the PTS to make further efforts to achieve gender balance among the staff of the organization at all levels of responsibility. In this regard, we would like to propose the PTS to use new and existing tools to encourage the participation of young female professionals in the PTS.

14. The Group looks forward to a constructive deliberation and timely conclusion of the work of this Working Group.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 AND CHINA STATEMENT DURING THE SIXTY SECOND SESSION OF  
WORKING GROUP A,  
19 – 21 OCTOBER 2022,**

**DELIVERED BY H.E. AZZEDDINE FARHANE, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Ambassador Nguyen Trung Kien, conducting our work in this 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of Working Group A and would like to thank you for chairing this meeting and assures you of its full support and cooperation.
2. The Group is deeply saddened by the loss of so many lives globally due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and expresses its solidarity with all countries as they battle with the effects of the pandemic. COVID-19 showed that new challenges have global effects, which require universal coordinated response that necessitates cooperation in all domains among all States to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, through a multilateral approach.
3. The Group welcomes the gradual resumption of in-person activities, as well as the Organization's efforts to maintain business continuity, flow of data and data products despite restrictions caused by COVID-19 and expresses its gratitude to the PTS in this regard.
4. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary Dr. Robert Floyd for his opening remarks. The Group takes note of the Executive Secretary's report on non-verification-related activities for the period April-August 2022 and extends its appreciation to the PTS for the timely issuance of documents for this session.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Group is pleased to note that since our last meeting, four countries, all from the G-77, namely, Dominica, Timor-Leste, Equatorial Guinea and São Tomé and Príncipe, have ratified the CTBT, bringing the number of State Signatories to 186 and of Ratifiers to 176. The Group stresses the need for an early Entry Into Force of the CTBT and underlines the importance of all possible efforts to be made to achieve the universalization of the Treaty, with the ultimate goal to eliminate nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
6. The Group also takes note of the statement of the Executive Secretary at the 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference in New York. The Group would like to highlight the inextricable link between the CTBT and the NPT as mutually reinforcing legal instruments of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

Mr. Chair,

7. Regarding agenda item 3, the Group takes note of the report of the Advisory Group at its 59<sup>th</sup> session and the recommendations contained therein. The Group appreciates the Advisory Group's efforts and expertise in providing necessary observations, conclusions and recommendations on issues related to the administrative, budgetary and financial matters.

8. The Group would like to present the following comments regarding the 2023 Budget update proposals, financial and budgetary decision:

(a) The Group takes note of the document 2023 Budget Update Proposals: Final Draft(CTBT/PTS/INF.1616/Rev.1) in which it is indicated that the total 2023 Budget at estimated 2023 prices is \$ 129 243 200 in notional US\$ equivalent value, with an overall weighted average price adjustment of 3.17%;

(b) The Group welcomes the efforts of the PTS in mitigating the impact of the high inflation rate through combination of the identified savings and efficiencies with the higher estimate of miscellaneous income leading to a reduction in the total amount of the 2023 contributions from State Signatories. In this regard, the Group requests the PTS to present the updated scale of assessments for 2023. Furthermore, the Group encourages the PTS to explore creative and reliable ways of absorbing the projected higher inflation rate on the 2024-2025 budget cycle;

(c) In light of the proposed renovation of the VIC, the Group requests the PTS for a breakdown of the fixed and variable costs in the 2023 budget;

(d) While appreciating the efforts of the PTS in identifying and implementing measures to increase efficiency and savings to the extent possible, the Group reiterates the importance of ensuring that any savings do not jeopardize the effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities, nor affects the quality of these capacity building activities which aim at increasing the capabilities of States Signatories to participate in the verification regime. Therefore, the Group reiterates its position that capacity building activities should be funded in a sufficient manner through the Regular Budget. The Group requests the PTS to continue providing information, documents and organizing briefings on this subject during inter-sessional periods;

(e) The Group strongly underlines the importance of promoting a balanced approach and appropriate allocation of resources among the three dimensions of the verification regime namely the International Monitoring System, the International Data Centre and On-Site Inspection. The Group notes that most of the 2023 Budget is allocated to verification activities (81.2%). In this regard, the Group takes note that the share allocated to the OSI programme in the document 2023 Budget Update Proposals: Final Draft would have decreased from 8.6% to 8.5 percent compared to the 2022 Regular Budget, while the share allocated to the IMS programme would have increased from 31,8% to 32,3%;

(f) The Group requests the PTS to further develop the OSI e-Library, based on the lessons learned from exercises, in addition to providing access to the OSI e-library to the authorized experts from States Signatories;

(g) The Group notes the progress with regards to making a large proportion of the training modules available in all United Nations official languages. The Group reiterates the importance of the allocation of resources for a project-based action plan that includes regional and multilingual dimensions, as well as assessment mechanisms, as was previously requested by the Working Group B of the Preparatory Commission at its 52<sup>nd</sup> Session (CTBT/PC-52/WGB/1).

9. The Group takes note that some technical meetings, workshops, training courses and exercises towards capacity building activities, were postponed due to COVID-19. The Group however, expresses its concern that the implementation rate of the Capacity Building Fund remains low. In this regard, the Group calls on the PTS to implement necessary measures to rectify this anomaly and bring capacity building activities to required levels. Furthermore, the

Group is looking forward to the report of the quality assessment of training provided as well as measures that will be undertaken to support the participation of developing countries in virtual training programmes. The Group reiterates its request for the Secretariat to submit to the WGA and WGB a detailed report on planned and previously approved activities that were not carried out in the period 2020-2021, including any major changes, upgrades or the overlap of the two Programme and Budgets of 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 in the new draft program and budget document. The Group would also like to highlight that those activities, that are already budgeted should be rescheduled as soon as circumstances allow.

10. The Group welcomes the preparations for the Science Diplomacy Symposium, as well as Snt2023 and notes that these events are effective platforms for exchange of knowledge and ideas between the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO and the broader scientific and diplomatic communities.

Mr. Chair,

11. The Group remains seriously concerned with the low level of representation of developing countries in the PTS and requests the PTS to make all necessary efforts to bring geographical representation to equitable levels. In this regard, the Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom, its subsidiary bodies, particularly when it comes to the Staff of the Organization, especially, at the Professional and higher levels, as important considerations in the recruitment process.

12. The Group takes note of the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, including the achievement of gender balance at the director level of the PTS. The Group however remains concerned that gender representation at Professional level and higher levels remains low (37%). The Group requests the PTS to make further efforts to achieve gender balance among the staff of the organization at all levels of responsibility. In this regard, we would like to propose the PTS to use new and existing tools to encourage the participation of young female professionals in the PTS.

119 |

13. The Group also recalls the guidelines contained within document CTBT/PTS-INF.1635 and encourages the PTS to coordinate with the other Secretariats of the Vienna based International Organizations (VBOs), to ensure that major meetings do not coincide, as well as to avoid an overlap, to the extent possible, with any major public holiday.

14. The Group looks forward to a constructive deliberation and timely conclusion of the work of this Working Group.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 AND CHINA STATEMENT DURING THE 58TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP B, 21 FEBRUARY – 4 MARCH 2022, DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. AZZEDDINE FARHANE, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

Mr. Chair, Dear Excellencies and colleagues,

1. I would like to take your permission to express in our statement in Working Group B the Groups' condolences to Kenya for the passing away of Prof. Norbit Opiyo, and to Slovakia for the passing away of H.E. Ambassador Radomir Bohach, Permanent Representative of Slovakia. May God rest their souls.

2. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Dr Erlan Batyrbekov, conducting our work in this 58th Session of Working Group B together with the Vice-Chair and Task Leaders. The Group would like to assure you of its full cooperation.

3. The Group congratulates H.E. Ambassador Darío Ernesto Chirú Ochoa, Permanent Representative of Panama on his election as Chairperson of the Preparatory Commission for the year 2022 and welcomes the appointment of the Vice Chairpersons of the Commission and of WGB. The Group thanks H.E. Ambassador Ivo Šrámek, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic for chairing the Preparatory Commission during 2021.

4. We would also like to thank Dr. Robert Floyd, the Executive Secretary, for his opening remarks and take note of his report on verification related activities for the period from July to December 2021. The Group also takes note of the documents prepared for this session by the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS), appreciates the PTS efforts in making them available and requests the PTS to ensure their timely circulation in preparation for future sessions. The Group also considers that States Signatory would benefit from technical briefings on the reports submitted to policy-making organs.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Group stresses the need for an early Entry Into Force of the CTBT and underlines the importance of all possible efforts to be made to achieve the universalization of the Treaty, with the ultimate goal to eliminate nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. The 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Treaty for signature should be a rallying point towards this end. In this regard, the Group welcomes the convening of the 2021 Article XIV Conference on facilitating the EIF of the Treaty, which took place in New York on 23 September 2021 and takes note of the adoption of the final Declaration of the Conference. The Group appreciates the efforts by States Signatories in this regard and thanks the PTS for organizing this event. The Group also commends the efforts undertaken by South Africa and Italy as Co-Presidents.

6. The Group takes note with satisfaction of the success of the Science and Technology Conference 2021 that took a hybrid format as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as it provided an opportunity to discuss and potentially assist States Signatories in identifying new and improved technologies which may benefit the Treaty's verification regime. The Group notes that the Conference was an effective platform for an exchange of knowledge and ideas between the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO and the broader scientific community.

7. The Group reiterates its principled position on the importance of sustaining a balanced approach, including in allocating resources and time, among the three Major Programmes of the verification regime, namely the International Monitoring System (IMS), the International



Data Centre (IDC) and On-Site Inspection (OSI). To this end, it calls once more on the PTS to seek the necessary efficiencies in the process, to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty, upon Entry Into Force, is balanced, coherent, and robust while furthering its efficiency.

Mr. Chair,

8. On specific verification related activities conducted by the PTS, as contained in the Executive Secretary's report, the Group stresses the importance of the PTS conforming with its mandate and would like to make the following remarks:

a) The Group notes the continuous progress, within the provisional operational nature of the IMS, as reported by the PTS, on the joint efforts of the States hosting IMS facilities, local operator and the PTS. The Group also notes that the data availability of certified IMS stations remained high and automated products of the IDC met the timeliness requirements. The Group further notes the efforts of the PTS in identifying challenges that led to a slight decline in some unauthenticated data and looks forward to implementation of measures to remedy these challenges.

b) Regarding the IMS, the Group takes note of the activities undertaken by the PTS during the reporting period, in particular the progress achieved towards the installations and certification of remaining Stations in developing countries, which illustrates the strong political commitment and material contributions of developing countries to the work of this Organization. The Group further takes note that during the reporting period, the total number of installed stations and certified stations are 298 (92.8%) and 289 (90.0%) respectively.

c) On the management of life-cycle costs, including post-certification activity (PCA) contracts for certified IMS stations, the Group takes note of the continuous efforts by the PTS to standardize the services provided under PCA contracts and reiterates its call on all States Signatories to cooperate with the PTS in a joint effort to lower life cycle costs, including those related to PCA.

d) The Group would like to reaffirm that any activities related to the funding, maintenance, and provisional operation of the IMS stations by the PTS, and any related action or decision by the Prepcom, should respect the decisions of the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the territorial integrity of States. The Group highlights the importance to engage in construction maintenance and/or relocation of IMS facilities with full respect of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

e) The Group looks forward to finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, as a matter of priority at the next in person session of the PrepCom. In this connection, the Group appreciates the work carried out by the previous Co-facilitators Ambassador Molekane and Ambassador Laggner, as per the mandate outlined by the PrepCom, in this regard. The Group stresses that the postponement of the deadline for this decision is directly linked to the temporary changes in the format and modality of meetings of the PrepCom in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

f) Regarding the International Data Center Progressive Commissioning, the Group would like to emphasize the importance of continued involvement of experts in conducting the experiments, including the participation of experts from developing countries. The Group looks forward to further briefings on the progressive commissioning of the IMS and the IDC, the validation and acceptance test plan and the experiments conducted and planned by the PTS, noting that the milestones for progressive commissioning are not time bound and are requirement-based. The Group further believes that the evaluation report should include how past identified

performance shortfalls were addressed the assessment report on the four experiments and update of the IDC validation and acceptance test plan (VATP) for future experiments. The Group also requests that the PTS considers introducing provisions in the VATP to measure the quality of IDC in fulfilling the verification objectives and test the provisions in the next set of experiments.

g) The Group takes note of the follow-up to the OSI action plan for 2016-2019. The Group notes of the postponement of several preparatory activities such as a communications field test, host country training, site preparations and the conduct of both field BUEs, originally planned for June and September 2020, postponed to July 2021 and later cancelled as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and movement restrictions. The Group looks forward to the programme of work for the period 2022-23 in order to validate the outcomes of the OSI action plan 2016-2019, the third training cycle for inspectors, and the development of OSI techniques. In order to increase the integrity of the activities of the OSI section, the development of a unified/single plan for OSI called the "OSI Development Plan" is necessary. It could include an operational and an exercise plan that will address the validation and verification process of each method, technology, and equipment.

h) On the Radionuclide Monitoring System, the Group takes note of the continued work on the completion of ongoing installation and certification projects and the implementation of major upgrade and revalidation projects, as well as the maintenance of stations, which is carried out with Signatory States.

Mr. Chair,

9. The Group would like to highlight the importance of capacity building activities, especially through technical trainings, workshops and capacity building courses, and expresses its appreciation for the PTS's efforts to continue providing and expanding capacity-building activities despite COVID-19 pandemic and movement restrictions, through organizing online workshops and trainings. We reaffirm the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance to, inter alia, ensure that all States Signatories, in particular developing countries, have the capacity to effectively participate in the verification regime of the Treaty, and implement obtained knowledge and capacities at the national, regional and international levels.

10. The Group expresses its support for projects, such as the pilot project that facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in the WGB sessions in 2021. The Group is convinced that such participation will greatly contribute to capacity building in our countries. In this regard, the Group is concerned about the fact that only 6 out of 22 candidates to be invited in the WGB meetings during 2022 are women and encourage the nomination of female technical experts to participate in the meetings of WGB.

11. As part of its integrated capacity building activities, the Group calls on the Commission to continue offering States Signatories, in particular developing States, a wide range of training courses, workshops as well as hardware and software for NDCs aimed at strengthening capacities in areas relevant to the Treaty. Capacity building activities should continue to include all these elements that enable developing countries to access and analyse IMS data and International Data Centre (IDC) products.

12. Cognizant of the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and because of the technical and substantive nature of the issues under the agenda of the work of this technical Working Group of the 58th session of WGB, and due to the lack of ability of hybrid meetings to induce enough interactions between delegations, the Group suggests that the Agenda of this session of the WGB, including the Task Leader discussions, other informal technical consultations and expert group meetings be streamlined to cover the most salient and must-do items.

13. The Group stresses that discussions on substantive issues requiring a decision, be deferred to the next session of the WGB, when the in-person participation of the technical experts of delegation would be possible. The Group also reiterates that WGB report for its 58th session must be procedural, focusing on business continuity, and duly considered by technical experts from States Signatories.

14. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance and reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies, particularly when it comes to capacity-building activities. In this regard, we encourage Working Group B to contribute to improving such representation among its officers in accordance with the abovementioned principles.

Mr. Chair,

15. Finally, the Group looks forward to continue working constructively with you, the Vice-Chairs and the Task Leaders in order to achieve a fruitful outcome of this session.

Thank you.



**G-77 AND CHINA STATEMENT DURING THE 59TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP B, 22 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER 2022, DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. MANUEL ROLDAN BARILLAS, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUATEMALA, ON BEHALF OF H.E. MR. AZZEDDINE FARHANE, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO, CHAIRPERSON OF THE G-77 VIENNA CHAPTER**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Dr Erlan Batyrbekov, conducting our work in this 59th Session of Working Group B together with the Vice-Chair and Task Leaders. The Group would like to assure you of its full cooperation.

2. We would also like to thank Dr. Robert Floyd, the Executive Secretary, for his opening remarks and take note of his report on verification related activities for the period from January to June 2022. The Group also takes note of the documents prepared for this session by the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) and appreciates the PTS efforts in making them available. The Group also considers that States Signatory would benefit from technical briefings on the reports submitted to policy-making organs.

Mr. Chair,

3. The Group is pleased to note that, since our last Prepcom, Dominica and Timor-Leste, have ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), bringing the number of State Signatories to 186 and States Ratifiers to 174. In view of the 10th NPT Review Conference, the Group reiterates its full support for the CTBT and stresses the need for an early Entry into Force of the Treaty and its universalization, with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

4. The Group also takes note of the statement of the Executive Secretary at the 10th NPT Review Conference in New York. The Group would like to highlight the inextricable link between the CTBT and the NPT as mutually reinforcing legal instruments of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

5. The Group takes note of the preliminary report of the Science and Technology Conference 2021 and looks forward for the designed version. The Group welcome the preparations for the Snt2023 and looks forward for information on the objectives, themes and topics. The Group notes that the Conference is an effective platform for an exchange of knowledge and ideas between the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO and the broader scientific community.

6. The Group reiterates its principled position on the importance of sustaining a balanced approach, including in allocating resources and time, among the three Major Programmes of the verification regime, namely the International Monitoring System (IMS), the International Data Centre (IDC) and On-Site Inspection (OSI). To this end, it calls once more on the PTS to seek the necessary efficiencies in the process, to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty, upon Entry into Force, is balanced, coherent, and robust while furthering its efficiency.

Mr. Chair,

7. On specific verification related activities conducted by the PTS, as contained in the Executive Secretary's report, the Group stresses the importance of the PTS conforming with its mandate and would like to make the following remarks:

a) The Group notes the continuous progress, within the provisional operational nature of the IMS, as reported by the PTS, on the joint efforts of the States hosting IMS facilities, local operator and the PTS. The Group also notes that the data availability of certified IMS stations remained high and automated products of the IDC met the timeliness requirements. The Group further notes the efforts of the PTS in identifying challenges that led to a slight decline in unauthenticated data of auxiliary seismic stations and looks forward to implementation of measures to remedy this challenge.

b) Regarding the IMS, the Group takes note of the activities undertaken by the PTS during the reporting period, in particular the progress achieved towards the installations and certification of remaining Stations in developing countries, which illustrates the strong political commitment and material contributions of developing countries to the work of this Organization. The Group further takes note that during the reporting period, the total number of installed stations and certified stations remain at 298 (92.8%) and 289 (90.0%) respectively.

c) On the management of life-cycle costs, including post-certification activity (PCA) contracts for certified IMS stations, the Group takes note of the continuous efforts by the PTS to standardize the services provided under PCA contracts and reiterates its call on all States Signatories to cooperate with the PTS in a joint effort to lower life cycle costs, including those related to PCA.

d) Reaffirming the provisions of the Establishing Resolution and the independent nature of the Prepcom, the Group would like to reaffirm that any activities related to the funding, maintenance, and provisional operation of the IMS stations must respect the mandate of the PTS, and any related action or decision by the Prepcom, should fully respect the purposes and principles of the United Nations, including those on the territorial integrity of the States. In view of this, the Group highlights the importance to engage in construction, maintenance and/or relocation of IMS facilities fully in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

e) The Group looks forward to finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, as a matter of priority at the next in person session of the PrepCom. In this connection, the Group appreciates the work carried out by the previous Co-facilitators Ambassador Molekane and Ambassador Laggner, as per the mandate outlined by the PrepCom, in this regard. In this regard, the Group looks forward to the resumption of the consultations to finalize direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization as soon as possible.

f) Regarding the International Data Center Progressive Commissioning, the Group would like to emphasize the importance of continued involvement of experts in conducting the experiments, including the participation of experts from developing countries. The Group looks forward to further briefings on the progressive commissioning of the IMS and the IDC, the validation and acceptance test plan and the experiments conducted and planned by the PTS, noting that the milestones for progressive commissioning are not time bound and are requirement-based. The Group takes note of the Information Paper on the status of the implementation of recommendations from Experiments 1, 2, 3, and 4 (CTBT/PTS/INF.1614) and the material with information on the status of the implementation of improvements from Experiments 1, 2, 3, and 4 (ECS/WGB-58/PTS/8).



g) The Group looks forward to the implementation of the OSI programme of work 2022-2023, the development of the next OSI training plan, and the OSI exercise plan 2022-2025.

h) The Group took note of the postponement of several preparatory activities as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and movement restrictions. Furthermore, the Group notes that the PTS have to consult the States Signatories to seek alternative ways in order to validate the outcomes of the OSI action plan 2016-2019, the third training cycle for inspectors, and the development of OSI techniques. In order to increase the integrity of the activities of the OSI section, the development of a unified/single plan for OSI called the "OSI Development Plan" is necessary. It could include an operational and an exercise plan that will address the validation and verification process of each method, technology, and equipment.

i) On the Radionuclide Monitoring System, the Group takes note of the continued work on the completion of ongoing installation and certification projects and the implementation of major upgrade and revalidation projects, as well as the maintenance of stations, which is carried out with Signatory States.

Mr. Chair,

8. The Group would like to highlight the importance of capacity building activities, especially through technical trainings, workshops and capacity building courses, and expresses its appreciation for the PTS's efforts to continue providing and expanding capacity-building activities despite COVID-19 pandemic and movement restrictions, through organizing online workshops and trainings. We reaffirm the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance to, inter alia, ensure that all States Signatories, in particular developing countries, have the capacity to effectively participate in the verification regime of the Treaty, and implement obtained knowledge and capacities at the national, regional and international levels.

9. The Group expresses its support for projects, such as the pilot project that facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in the WGB sessions. The Group is convinced that such participation will greatly contribute to capacity building in our countries. In this regard, the Group is concerned about the fact that only 6 out of 22 candidates to be invited in the WGB meetings during 2022 are women and encourage the nomination of female technical experts to participate in the meetings of WGB.

10. As part of its integrated capacity building activities, the Group calls on the Commission to continue offering States Signatories, in particular developing States, a wide range of training courses, workshops as well as hardware and software for NDCs aimed at strengthening capacities in areas relevant to the Treaty. Capacity building activities should continue to include all these elements that enable developing countries to access and analyse IMS data and International Data Centre (IDC) products.

11. Cognizant of the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and because of the technical and substantive nature of the issues under the agenda of the work of this technical Working Group of the 58th session of WGB, and due to the lack of ability of hybrid meetings to induce enough interactions between delegations, the Group suggests that the Agenda of this session of the WGB, including the Task Leader discussions, other informal technical consultations and expert group meetings be streamlined to cover the most salient and must-do items.

12. The Group stresses that discussions on substantive issues requiring a decision, be deferred to the next session of the WGB, when the in-person participation of the technical experts of delegation would be possible. The Group also reiterates that WGB report for its 59th



session must be procedural, focusing on business continuity, and duly considered by technical experts from States Signatories.

13. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance and reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies, particularly when it comes to capacity-building activities. In this regard, we encourage Working Group B to contribute to improving such representation among its officers in accordance with the abovementioned principles.

Mr. Chair,

14. Finally, the Group looks forward to continue working constructively with you, the Vice-Chairs and the Task Leaders in order to achieve a fruitful outcome of this session.

Thank you.





**COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL  
USES OF OUTER SPACE  
(COPUOS)**



**Statement of the G-77 and China during the Fifty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 7-18 February 2022, delivered by H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Morocco**

Vienna, 7 February 2022

**AGENDA ITEM 4. GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to express our gratitude to you, Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti of Paraguay, a member of the Group, for your Chairmanship of the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS and assure you and the members of the bureau our full support this session. The Group would also like to extend its appreciation to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, and her dedicated staff at the Secretariat for the documentation and planning required for convening this meeting, particularly given the difficulties and exceptional circumstances posed by the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Mr. Chair,

2. The Group welcomes the increasing awareness of the potential, importance and impact that space activities have today, especially among the Group members. In this regard, the Group welcomes Angola, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Panama and Slovenia as new members of the Committee<sup>1</sup>.

3. The Group would like to seize this opportunity to express its high appreciation for the work that COPUOS and its two Subcommittees have carried out, as the main UN forum in promoting international cooperation on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.

4. The Group is willing to engage in the discussions of this Subcommittee to support measures to enhance international cooperation and promote inclusivity and gender equality in space activities to ensure the benefits of space activities are available to all the peoples of the world. Considering the great importance the international community attaches to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Group is of the opinion that on-going and future activities in this area should contribute to sustainable development, particularly in developing countries.

5. The Group wishes to recall the established principles related to outer space activities, including the principle of exploration and use of outer space on the basis of equality, the principle of the non-appropriation of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies, and the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Chair,

6. Several of the issues to be discussed during this session are of paramount importance to developing countries. The Group believes that in order to achieve the main

---

<sup>1</sup> A/RES/76/76 para. 42

objectives of this Subcommittee, it is important to concentrate our work in areas such as building and promotion of the technological capacities, transfer of technology favorable for developing countries, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and scientific-technological research in developing countries within the framework of international cooperation. The only way we can ensure that outer space remains sustainable and can continue to deliver benefits to the whole of humankind is by working together through enhanced cooperation and collaboration.

7. The Group also considers it crucial that developing countries do not get left behind or are unfairly disadvantaged by space exploration efforts. The Group is of the view that space technology applications must translate into concrete benefits for developing countries. In order to achieve this goal, transfer of technology on favorable terms for developing countries, as well as associated capacity-building are of vital importance. In this vein, the Group strongly encourages States to strengthen international, multilateral and bilateral cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, including by addressing challenges and obstacles, in particular those that hinder such cooperation, particularly, in developing countries. The Group also urges States to refrain from promulgating, adopting and applying any unilateral economic, financial and trade measures and actions not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that could impede the access to space and space activities, particularly, in developing countries.

8. The Group believes that COPUOS must remain the forum for enhancement of cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space. Therefore, the Group calls upon UNOOSA and the Member States for greater support to enhance both North-South and South-South cooperation to facilitate such transfer of technology among nations.

9. The Group would also like to reiterate its call upon OOSA and the Member States to make more opportunities available for greater academic linkages, long-term fellowships and further collaboration among national and regional laboratories, UN research centers, other national and international institutions on space matters and institutions in developing countries.

131 |

Mr. Chair,

10. The Group is pleased to note the establishment of the Working Group on the Long Term Sustainability (LTS) of Outer Space Activities and congratulates Mr. Umamaheswaran R. of India, a member of our Group, on his election as Chair. Recalling the constructive efforts made by all to achieve the adoption of the voluntary LTS guidelines during the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of COPUOS, it is important to bear in mind that this achievement was the outcome of a multi-dimensional compromise and therefore has a delicate balance. This delicate balance should be preserved in future relevant work regarding this subject and should also take into consideration the priorities and concerns of all Member States, in particular developing countries. The Group and its Member States look forward to the meetings of the LTS Working Group and to contributing to its work constructively, including discussions on its detailed workplan and methods of work<sup>2</sup>.

11. Regarding space debris, the Group is of the view that the issue of placement of large and mega constellations and its implications is of priority and importance. This topic should continue to be treated as a priority with the view to mitigate the creation of space debris and prevent collisions. The Group underscores the need for developing countries to have access to technologies and methodologies for the measurement, monitoring and characterization of space debris and other space objects.

---

<sup>2</sup> A/76/20 p. 54

12. The Group welcomes the adoption of the resolution “The ‘Space2030’ Agenda: Space as a Driver of Sustainable Development<sup>3</sup>” by the UN General Assembly in its 76<sup>th</sup> Session. The Group reiterates that the “Space2030” Agenda is intended to be a “forward-looking strategy for reaffirming and strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement, addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind<sup>4</sup>.” In this regard, the Group emphasizes, once more, the need for capacity building to ensure that the required technical expertise is made available to Member States, especially developing countries, to support their implementation of the “Space2030” Agenda.

Mr. Chair,

13. We have indeed an adequate mechanism before us in COPUOS to address space related issues. We must recall that people worldwide count on the UN system to address global needs particularly the needs of the developing countries. In a spirit of cooperation and consensus, it is the hope of the Group of 77 and China that we will be able to address these issues and to come up with solutions that will contribute to global prosperity through the promotion of enhanced international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

I thank you Mr. Chair.





**Statement of the G-77 and China during the Fifty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 7-18 February 2022, delivered by H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Morocco**

Vienna, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**AGENDA ITEM 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I take this opportunity to express the Group's sincere appreciation to UNOOSA Director Simonetta di Pippo as we bid her farewell after eight years of service.

2. The Group commends the Director for her dedication and valuable contribution towards making space accessible for all, even during the COVID-19 pandemic and despite the limited resources of the Office. Under her exemplary leadership, UNOOSA expanded its partnerships and mobilized resources to secure capacity-building opportunities for developing countries, raised awareness of the contribution of space to sustainable development, and provided valuable support for the work of COPUOS and its Subcommittees. We are likewise pleased to see the membership of COPUOS expand to 100 members during her tenure, which will allow more developing countries to benefit from the peaceful uses of outer space.

3. The Group looks forward to working closely with her successor as we continue to promote the peaceful uses of outer space for sustainable development, advance international cooperation, strengthen the capacity of developing countries in utilizing space applications, and encourage inclusivity and gender equality in the space sector.

4. The Group of 77 and China wish Director di Pippo all the best in her future endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 AND CHINA STATEMENT DURING THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, FROM 28 MARCH-8 APRIL 2022, DELIVERED BY H.E. AZZEDDINE FARHANE, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

**AGENDA ITEM 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**

Madam Chairperson,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to assure you, Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa, a member of the Group, our full support on your Chairmanship of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS.

2. The Group further takes the opportunity to thank the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and Secretary of the Subcommittee, Mr. Niklas Hedman, and the Secretariat for the preparations and planning made for convening this meeting, particularly given the difficulties and exceptional circumstances posed by the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Madam Chairperson,

3. The Group underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration of the outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and in conformity with applicable international law.

4. In line with this, the Group reiterates its strict adherence to the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including those outlined in RES. GA.1962 (XVIII), RES.GA.1884 (XVIII), specifically:

a. Universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development as well as the equitable and rational use of the outer space for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind;

b. The principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, which cannot be appropriated by any State, by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation or by any other means;

c. The non-militarization of outer space, which shall never be used for the placement and/or deployment of weapons of any kind, and as province of mankind, its strict use for the improvement of living conditions and peace among peoples;

d. International cooperation in the development of space activities especially those referred to in the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the benefit and in the interest of all States taking in particular account the needs on developing countries.

5. The Group reiterates that COPUOS, with its two Subcommittees, is the only UN forum to discuss comprehensively all matters related to the peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies. The Group recommends that there should be greater interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee in order to promote advancements in space law, so that it would be aligned with the major

scientific and technical advances in space activities. The Group is of the view that such coordination and synergies between the two Subcommittees can also promote greater understanding, acceptance and further implementation of the existing United Nations legal instruments.

6. The Group reaffirms the importance of preventing an arms race and the placement of weapons of any kind in outer space, and calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively and commit to preserving outer space as a peaceful environment. The Group believes that the sustainability of outer space activities both in the short and in the long-term requires the international community to ensure that no weapons are ever placed or used there.

7. The Group is of the view that the discussions of this Subcommittee should not lead to any measures, including norms, guidelines and standards that would limit access of developing and emerging space-faring countries to outer space. Accordingly, the Group believes that the international legal framework should be developed in a manner that addresses the concerns of all States.

8. Developing countries are increasingly engaging in space activities and in the discussions of COPUOS. While several Member States of this Group have achieved important milestones in space activities, others are only starting to include them into their national programs. This fact reaffirms our recognition of the potential, importance and impact of space activities and their relevance in the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including through the “Space2030” Agenda and its Implementation Plan.

9. In this connection, it is imperative to increase efforts so that the benefits from outer space activities can be extended to all States. Furthermore, and in line with the enhancement of international cooperation in outer space activities, it is vital to promote the wider participation of developing countries through proactively offering assistance by advanced space faring nations. In this regard, the Group emphasizes the need for COPUOS to devote more efforts for capacity-building in space law and policy, and make the required expertise available to developing countries, facilitated by UNOOSA. The Group also underscores the importance of appropriate funding to enable the Office to provide valuable support for developing countries, including through UNOOSA’s capacity-building programmes.

10. The definition and delimitation of outer space, geostationary orbit, capacity-building and application of international law to small satellites, and the meetings of the Working Group on space resources, inter alia are of paramount importance to the Group. It will engage in the discussions during this session of the Legal Subcommittee and will express its views under each specific agenda item, as appropriate.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: STATUS AND APPLICATION OF THE FIVE UNITED NATIONS TREATIES ON OUTER SPACE**

Madam Chairperson,

1. The Group of 77 and China is of the view that a wide adherence to the United Nations treaties contributes to creating a safe, secure and sustainable atmosphere for the development of outer space activities and enhancing the effectiveness of COPUOS as the main body for discussing and negotiating international space law. We therefore note with appreciation the growing number of parties to the UN treaties on outer space and encourage those States that have not yet become parties to them to consider doing so.

2. Considering the growing number of space actors and the benefits derived from space science technology and their applications, the conduct of such activities by States and intergovernmental and non-governmental entities, continues to expand. In this regard, the

Group is of the view that the conduct of space actors should conform to applicable international space law.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7A: THE DEFINITION AND DELIMITATION OF OUTER SPACE**

Madam Chairperson,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the documentation on this agenda item, particularly the contributions from Member States on their legal approaches to the definition and delimitation of outer space and suborbital flights, as well as the historical summary on the consideration of the question on the definition and delimitation of outer space.
2. The Group believes that the definition and delimitation of outer space is an important topic that should be kept on the agenda of this Subcommittee and that more work should be done in this direction because the legal regimes governing airspace and outer space are different.
3. The Group reiterates its commitment to continue the discussion on issues related to definition and delimitation of outer space and invites other countries to do as such in order to reach a consensus and in this regard we feel that the working group on Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space should continue its activities.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7B: GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT**

Madam Chairperson,

1. The Group of 77 and China firmly believes that geostationary orbit — a limited natural resource clearly in danger of saturation — shall be used rationally and shall be made available to all States, irrespective of their current technical capacities. That would provide States with the possibility of gaining access to the geostationary orbit under equitable conditions, bearing in mind, in particular, the needs and interests of developing countries and the geographical position of certain countries, and taking into account the processes of the ITU and relevant norms and decisions of the United Nations.
2. With the unprecedented rate at which developed countries are employing satellites to exploit the latest technology, there has been increasing awareness of the limitations of the geostationary orbit. Despite the relatively rapid development of certain developing countries in recent years, significant disparity between the ability of developed and developing countries to utilize satellite technology generally remains.
3. The Group underscores that the geostationary orbit shall not be subject to national appropriation, and that its utilization shall be governed by applicable international law and in accordance with the principle of non- appropriation of outer space, in order to ensure the guaranteed and equitable access to orbital positions of the geostationary orbit according to the needs of all countries, in particular developing countries and countries in certain geographical positions.
4. Bearing in mind that communications satellites are an indispensable tool in the efforts to promote the development of all countries, the Group is of the view that, in order to develop adequate mechanisms to ensure the equitable access to geostationary orbit, it is necessary to keep this issue on the agenda of this Subcommittee.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: CAPACITY-BUILDING IN SPACE LAW**

Madam Chairperson,

1. Capacity-building, training and education in space law help to promote international development and cooperation in space activities, and assist in building national expertise and capacity in countries with emerging space capabilities. It also provides the means for a better understanding of the interdependent roles of science, technology and law in space activities.
2. In this connection, the Group believes that the successful implementation and application of the international legal framework governing space activities will depend on the understanding and acceptance, by policymakers and decision makers, of the legal framework governing the conduct of space activities. The presence of suitable professionals, in particular in developing countries, who are able to provide legal advice and disseminate information and knowledge relating to space law therefore relies on the availability of suitable opportunities for education in space law and policy.
3. The Group reiterates its view that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies is a unique common platform for strengthening the capacity of States, in particular for developing countries. In this line, the Group encourages the Office for Outer Space Affairs to conduct targeted capacity-building, education and training in space law and policy, modelled upon the UN-SPIDER programme.
4. The Group also underscores the importance of appropriate funding to enable the Office to provide valuable support for developing countries, including through UNOOSA's capacity-building programmes.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON LEGAL MECHANISMS RELATING TO SPACE DEBRIS MITIGATION AND REMEDIATION MEASURES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE**

Madam Chairperson,

1. The issue of space debris, its proliferation and challenges posed by its removal, are a growing cause for concern in the space environment. The Group reiterates the need to take active measures to reduce pollution in the Earth's orbit and prevent accidental collisions of debris with space objects.
2. In this regard, the concept of mitigation and remediation of space debris in the form of removal of debris appear to be viable methods of preventing such collisions in space. The Group understands that there are some contentious issues before the LSC regarding this matter. The Group believes that it is important for all States to register all space objects launched into outer space. The Group also believes that no space object should be removed or eliminated without prior consent or authorization of the Registering State.
3. On the issue of the definition of space debris, the Group acknowledges that COPUOS is the proper forum for this discussion, and supports a consultative process involving all Member States of the Committee. With regard to the decongestion of outer space through remediation, the Group encourages Member States to adopt common but differentiated responsibilities, with the actors largely responsible for creating space debris the most involved in space debris removal activities, and that those actors should make available their scientific and legal expertise to developing countries. 4. Pending the adoption of legal mechanisms related to space debris mitigation and remediation, the Group takes note of the relevant non-



legally binding and voluntary measures such as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, and invites advanced space-faring countries and other actors, especially those deploying mega-constellations, to pay due regard to their application. The Group further underscores the importance of strengthening the capacity of developing countries for the voluntary implementation of these measures.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

## **AGENDA ITEM 12: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NON-LEGALLY BINDING UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENTS ON OUTER SPACE**

Madam Chairperson,

1. The Group of 77 and China underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration of the outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and in conformity with applicable international law. With regard to information exchange, the Group encourages the States launching objects into orbit, in accordance with their commitments under GA Resolutions 1721 (XVI) of 1961, 1721 B and 1962 (XVIII), Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States and the Exploration and Use of Outer Space of 1963, to furnish information to COPUOS through the UN Secretary General, who is also requested to maintain a public registry, and consider establishing a national registry for the purpose of information exchange on its space object(s), as appropriate.

2. With regard to the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, adopted by the UN General Assembly<sup>1</sup>, the Group underscores the importance of upholding the principle of promoting the availability of remote sensing data on a non-discriminatory basis, as this type of information is essential to the promotion of sustainable development in areas like agriculture, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change, and global health, and also promotes transparency and confidence among States.

3. The Group welcomes the General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries<sup>2</sup>. The Group believes that this instrument is important as it further promotes international cooperation in a bid to maximize the benefits in the utilization of space applications for all States and calls on all space-faring nations to contribute to promoting and fostering international cooperation on an equitable basis and to refrain from introducing unilateral restrictive measures hampering this cooperation. It also underscores that particular attention be given to the interests of developing countries and that the Committee should be strengthened in its role as the main platform for the exchange of information in the field of international cooperation.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

## **AGENDA ITEM 14: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO SMALL SATELLITE ACTIVITIES**

Madam Chairperson,

1. Presently, a legal or regulatory definition of a small satellite does not exist and under the United Nations treaties, principles and resolutions relating to international space law, the term "space object" refers to satellites, launch vehicles and their component parts.

2. Considering the essential roles of space objects, regardless of their size, in the socio economic development of Member States, the Group is of the view that the Committee on the

---

1 A/RES/41/65, adopted by the 41st UNGA on 3 December 1986.

2 A/RES/51/122, adopted by the 51st UNGA on 4 February 1997.



Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees should not create an ad-hoc legal regime or any other mechanisms, which might impose limitations on designing, building, launching and use of space objects by developing countries.

3. The Group also reiterates its previous statements regarding:

- The importance of ensuring guaranteed and equitable access to orbital positions of the geostationary orbit according to the needs of all countries, in particular developing countries; and
- That no space object should be removed or eliminated without prior consent or authorization of the Registering State.
- Since debris generation goes against the interest of all States, satellite removal or elimination should be done in a responsible manner.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 15: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON POTENTIAL LEGAL MODELS FOR ACTIVITIES IN EXPLORATION, EXPLOITATION AND UTILIZATION OF SPACE RESOURCES**

Madam Chairperson,

1. The Group of 77 and China underscores the importance of this topic in connection with the future of international cooperation in space exploration, which the Group believes should not depart from the basic legal principles of the non-appropriation and equitable access to outer space, which is the common province of humankind.

2. In view of the present scenario, in which some countries have introduced national laws allowing the exploitation of celestial bodies for economic purposes, this discussion becomes urgent for the consideration of these legislations with regard to the International Space Law, in order to avoid gaps or contradictions in the legal framework in this area and to provide a clear understanding of the legal obligations of States in space exploration.

3. The Group welcomes the establishment of the Working Group on the general exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources during the sixtieth session of the Legal Subcommittee and looks forward to fruitful deliberations on this timely and pertinent issue. With regard to the Workplan of the Working Group, the Group appreciates the revised Co-Chair's proposal and looks forward to participating in its discussion.

4. The Group believes that discussions should be as inclusive as possible, taking into consideration the needs of developing countries. The Group is of the view that any approach for the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources should be equitable, constructive, collaborative, consensus-based, and most of all, does not leave behind or unfairly disadvantage developing countries.

5. The Group is of the view that in light of the increasing participation and the evolving potential of the private sector in space activities, the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument that clearly defines and guides commercial activities in outer space could play an important role in expanding the use of outer space and stimulate space activities for the benefit of humanity. The Group considers that, besides the need for a broad debate about the implications of these activities, the developing countries shall not be excluded from the benefits of space exploration and their rights shall be considered in the discussion.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



**STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE SIXTY- FIFTH  
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL  
USES OF OUTER SPACE, 1-10 JUNE 2022, DELIVERED BY H.E.  
AZZEDDINE FARHANE, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

**AGENDA ITEM 5: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS**

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to reiterate our full cooperation and support to you, a member of the Group, in the discharge of your responsibilities as Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

2. The Group further takes the opportunity to thank the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Mr. Niklas Hedman, for his opening remarks, and the Secretariat for the excellent preparations made for this session.

3. The Group welcomes the applications submitted by Guatemala and Uzbekistan to join the membership of the Committee. The steady growth of COPUOS in recent years is a clear sign of the international recognition of the unique role of COPUOS as the UN forum dedicated to discussing and promoting the peaceful uses of outer space. In this regard, the Group both welcomes and encourages the participation of observers in the Committee and its Subcommittees as this contributes to greater engagement with the activities of COPUOS. It is important that more Member States of the United Nations be welcomed as this contributes to the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space.

4. The Group underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration of the outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes, with the view to realizing a shared vision for the future, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and in conformity with the body of applicable international law.

5. Universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development as well as the equitable and rational use of the outer space for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind, the principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, by any means, international cooperation in the development of space activities especially those referred to in the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, taking in Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, are the most important principles that should govern the activities in outer Space.

6. The Group reaffirms the importance of preventing an arms race in outer space and placement of weapons of any kind in outer space and calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the peaceful use of outer space to prevent an arms race there and to refrain from placement of weapons of any kind in outer space and any other actions contrary to that objective. In this regard, the Group notes that transparency and confidence building measures could play a useful role. The Group believes that preservation of outer space in the long term requires the international community to ensure that no weapons will ever be placed there.

7. Developing countries are increasingly engaged in space activities and actively participating in the discussions of the Committee. While several Member States of this Group have achieved important milestones in space activities, others are starting to develop their own space programmes and policies. This fact is a recognition of the potential, importance and impact of space activities. The Group also considers it crucial that developing countries are not left behind or are unfairly disadvantaged by space exploration efforts.

8. In this connection, it is imperative to intensify the efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived from outer space activities with a view to promoting the contribution of peaceful uses of outer space to socio-economic development, including the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the “Space2030” Agenda. In line with the enhancement of international cooperation in outer space activities, it is vital to promote a wider participation of developing countries through active assistance by advanced space faring nations and the Office of Outer Space Affairs. To this end, capacity building and technical assistance are key factors in the expansion of the abilities of those working in the field, allowing them to gain expertise and knowledge from more advanced spacefaring nations. The Group also underscores the importance of appropriate funding, as well as mobilization of extrabudgetary resources to enable the Office to provide valuable support for developing countries, including through UNOOSA’s capacity building programmes.

9. Finally, Mr. Chair, with regard to the appointment of the next Director for the Office of Outer Space Affairs, the Group is closely following the appointment process and would like to express its view that the new Director should continue to lead the Office in an inclusive, transparent, effective and professional manner, while paying special attention to the needs of developing countries. We look forward to working closely with the next Director in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space for sustainable development, including in meeting the “Space 2030 Agenda” advancing international cooperation, strengthening the capacity of developing countries in utilizing space applications, and encouraging inclusivity and gender equality in the space sector.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ITS FIFTY-NINTH SESSION**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti of Paraguay for his exemplary chairpersonship of the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and would like to comment on some of the issues put forth during the session that we consider of utmost relevance for developing countries.

2. The unfavorable financial situation of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, has limited its capacity-building activities. UNOOSA is affected by a shortage of funds to support cooperation programmes. Nevertheless, the Group would like to note with appreciation activities carried out in 2021, under the Programme on Space Applications by the UNOOSA in collaboration with Member States and other international organizations.

3. With regard to the technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, the Group would like to reiterate the fact that the geostationary orbit, a limited natural resource clearly in danger of saturation, needs to be used in a way that ensures countries have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular

countries.

4. The issue of space debris, its proliferation and removal, continue to be a cause for concern in the space. The Group therefore is of the view that the potential hazards posed by the collision of debris with space objects and the consequences of the contamination of outer space cannot be underestimated. It is also important that new space actors are not burdened due to the historical activities of established space actors. The Group would also like to emphasize the challenges caused by placement of mega constellations in low Earth orbit, including those related to sustainable use of orbit and frequencies, and believes addressing these challenges should be a priority in the work of COPUOS.

5. Pending the adoption of legal mechanisms related to space debris mitigation and remediation, the Group takes note of the relevant voluntary measures such as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, and invites advanced space-faring countries and other actors, especially those deploying mega-constellations, to pay due regard to their application. The Group further underscores the importance of strengthening the capacity of developing countries for the voluntary implementation of these measures.

Mr. Chair,

6. Space science and technology, and their applications are essential in effectively addressing current and future challenges to social and economic development and sustainability, such as natural disasters, food security, climate change and natural resource security. The Group notes in this regard that space activities are also crucial to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and the “Space2030” Agenda, in particular as part of efforts to support sustainable economic growth, improve quality of life and manage the global environment. It is therefore important to ensure that the Office is equipped with the necessary resources, including sufficient funding, to assist a greater number of countries in having access to the benefits of space science and technology and its applications in line with the spirit of the Outer Space Treaty and other applicable UN Treaties on Outer Space, as well as the “Space2030” Agenda.

7. The Group would like to highlight the importance of science and technology dissemination in bridging the space divide. The Group therefore calls upon the Committee and UNOOSA for greater support to the training programs of the regional centers affiliated to the United Nations, and to conduct wider exchange and cooperation among different regional centers, including through alliance of regional centers, with the aim of enhancing North-South and South-South cooperation to empower the development of technology among nations. The Group also calls upon UNOOSA and Member States to make available more opportunities for academic networking, long-term fellowships and collaboration with national and regional institutions in the field of outer space especially in developing countries.

8. The Group welcomes the adoption of the terms of reference, methods of work and workplan of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, under the able leadership of Mr. Umamaheswaran R. from India, and looks forward to further engaging with the Working Group in the next five years.

9. The Group welcomes the establishment of the Space and Global Health Platform and the Space and Global Health Network, upon the recommendation of the Working Group on Space and Global Health. The Group likewise appreciates the inclusion of “Space and global health” as a permanent agenda item of the STSC, in recognition of the role of space science and technology in various health and medical applications. The Group looks forward to finalizing the draft resolution on space and global health at this session.

10. Finally, Mr. Chair, the Group supports the inclusion and recognition of space as a driver of sustainable development in the Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held in New York. We thank Ambassador Facetti for facilitating the contribution of the Subcommittee to the draft Declaration. The G-77 and China in New York will also actively participate in the negotiation of this document.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: REPORT OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ITS SIXTY-FIRST SESSION**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa for her exemplary chairpersonship of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Legal Subcommittee, and would like to comment on some issues, which the Group deems of utmost relevance for developing countries.

2. The Group underscores once again that the definition and delimitation of outer space is a very important topic that should be kept on the agenda of this Subcommittee and that more work should be done in order to establish the legal regime applicable to airspace and outer space. In this regard, we commend all the efforts made by the Chair of the Working Group on Definition and delimitation of Outer Space and encourage all delegations to contribute to the discussion in a constructive manner.

3. Regarding the issue of geostationary orbit, the Group would like to reiterate that such a domain shall not be subject to national appropriation, by means of use, repeated use or occupation, or by any other means, and that its utilization is governed by applicable international law. Furthermore, we reiterate that this orbit needs to be used rationally, efficiently and economically, in conformity with the provision of the international space laws and relevant regulations, so that countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries.

4. The Group considers that capacity building in space law is a fundamental tool that should be enhanced through international cooperation. Therefore, the Group calls for a greater support by UNOOSA and Member States to foster both North-South and South-South cooperation to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise in the fields of international space law, space policy, space economy and space diplomacy.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Group believes that the ‘Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries’ is important as it further promotes international cooperation in a bid to maximize the benefits in the utilization of space applications for all States and calls on all space-faring nations to contribute to promoting and fostering international cooperation on an equitable basis. It also underscores that particular attention be given to the interests of developing countries and that the Committee should be strengthened in its role as the main platform for the exchange of information in the field of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space.

6. Considering the essential roles of space objects, regardless of their size, in the socioeconomic development of the Member States, the Group is of the view that the



Committee and its Subcommittees should not create an ad-hoc legal regime or any other mechanisms, which might impose limitations on designing, building, launching and using of space objects. The Group is of the view that in general, all international rights and obligations of the States with respect to satellites regardless of their perceived sizes are equally relevant for the conduct of space activities with the use of small satellites.

7. The Group also welcomes the establishment of a Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities and the adoption of its detailed workplan and methods of work. The Group believes that all countries need to engage in this discussion to help us develop an equitable, inclusive, constructive, collaborative and consensus based approach for the utilization of space resources, in line with the principles enshrined in the Outer Space Treaty and other relevant UN treaties, especially the principle of non-appropriation of Outer Space, including the moon and other celestial bodies.

8. The Group is of the view that in light of the increasing participation and the evolving potential of the private sector in space activities, the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument that clearly defines and guides commercial activities in outer space could play an important role in expanding the use of outer space and stimulate space activities for the benefit of humanity. The Group considers that, besides the need for a broad debate about the implications of these activities, the developing countries shall not be excluded from the benefits of space exploration and their rights shall be considered in the discussion.

9. The Group takes note with appreciation the Office's multi-year project to develop an online registration portal to facilitate the registration of space objects, in view of the increasing number of submissions. The Group likewise supports ongoing discussions at the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space on how to enhance registration practices, especially for large and or mega constellations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.





**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION  
ON INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL)**



**Introductory Remarks for the briefing by Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret Secretary of UNCITRAL, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent Representative of Morocco and Chairperson of the G-77 for 2022, Vienna, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

First of all, I would like to warmly thank **Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret Secretary of UNCITRAL** for addressing the G77 for the first time in a meeting person and to interact with your excellencies about the main topics on the agenda of the 55th Commission session of UNICITRAL and its future work. In my capacity as the Chair of the Group of 77, productive dialogue and close interaction between the Group and Heads of the Vienna-based Organizations and other groups still remain my priority. Today's meeting is the fourth of its kind a part of these efforts.

***Mme Secretary of UNCITRAL,***

Before giving you the floor, let me just share **with you the main priorities and the position of G77 and China regarding the important Commission of UNICITRAL.**

**1-**The Group underlines that the 55th session is going to carry on with the work undertaken during the 54th session and particularly looks forward to the updates concerning working Group II (***Dispute settlement***) and working Group III (***Investor State Dispute Settlement***).

**2-**The Group takes note of the progress made with respect to the model law on identity management and Trust services and look forward to the adoption of the model law in that area given the importance of digitalization in international trade and commerce especially within the context of Covid 19.

**3-**The Group appreciates the work done so far by working group IV and would urge the Commission to devote ample time and resources to the work of the Working Group to expedite the work being undertaken in the area of e-commerce. The Group acknowledges the good work being done by the Secretariat and urges Member States to support the Secretariat to undertake the tasks assigned to it by the Commission.

**4-** The Group takes note of the adoption at the 54th session of the proposal to increase the membership of the Commission from the current 60 to 70 and wishes to state that in as much as the expansion is welcome due consideration must be given to equitable geographical distribution in the future expansion to relect the right composition of the membership of the Commission.

**5-**The Group welcomes the successful launch of the **UNCITRAL days in Africa in Accra, Ghana** and is optimistic that the actual events to be held in Autumn would be as successful as the precursors in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as in Asia and the pacific.

I believe that such events would provide the platform for the sharing of ideas and also foster the inclusion of participants from Africa in the Work of the Commission whilst generating interest among Academics, students and practitioners. Today, Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret Secretary of UNCITRAL will talk about the main topic of the upcoming session of UNCITRAL and methods of work in greater detail and share updates on their implementation. I am confident that this briefing will enhance the Group's collective understating of new challenges of ***Investor State Dispute Settlement***, in particular on how members of the Group can both contribute to and interact on this timely issue.

May first invite Madam Anna Joubin to make her presentation and then open the floor for comments and questions. **Thank you.**



H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, G-77 Chairperson for 2022, in the G-77 Plenary Meeting on UNCITRAL matters with Ms Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade (UNCITRAL), and Ms Annemarie Heuls, G-77 External Relations Officer





**POLITICAL DIALOGUE  
BETWEEN THE GROUP OF 77  
AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**



H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, G-77 Chairperson for 2022, accompanied by Ms Annemarie Heuls, G-77 External Relations Officer and the G-77 Task Force Coordinators (from left to right): Mr. Fernando Marques from Angola for UNODC matters, Mr. Amir Saeed from Pakistan for IAEA matters, Ms. Andrea Lynn Lazaro from the Philippines for COPUOS matters, Mr. Renato Gómez Oporto from Chile in CTBTO matter and Mr. Essam Al Raggad from Jordan for UNIDO matters, joined by Ms Zineb Barioul from Morocco. From the EU Delegation, H.E. Stephan Klement, Head of Delegation and EU Permanent Representative to the UN Organizations in Vienna, IAEA and CTBTO and his team, joined by H.E. Xavier Sticker, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in Vienna.





**Introductory Remarks of HE Mr Azzeddine Farhane, Chair of G-77  
on the occasion of G-77/EU Dialogue  
25 May 2022 at 3:30 p.m.  
EU DELEGATION, THE ICON VIENNA, TOWER 24/18 FLOOR,  
WIEDNER GÜRTEL 13, 1100 VIENNA  
LISBON MEETING ROOM**

I am pleased to co-chair today this first EU/G-77 dialogue after three years before the pandemic COVID-19 to explore **ways and means for strengthening and codifying cooperation's substance and outcome** between our two groups that constitute more **than the 2/3 majority** of the UN States members.

Our meeting today is part of the implementation of my road on my capacity of G77 Vienna Chapter concerning the promotion and strengthening the dialogue with the EU on **the consensual topics and constructive initiatives** that could strengthen the Vienna consensus spirit as **Vienna multilateral architecture** offers to us the possibility to interact positively between **the G-77 and the EU, keeping in mind that more we interact in a dynamic, closeness and togetherness way, more we will be able to reach the complementarity and synergy so anticipated.**

I welcome the opportunity to exchange ideas with the EU and codify its outcome on our respective priorities and outlook for 2022 on all the thematic related to the international organizations based in Vienna. **2022 is an important year for the IAEA, UNODC, CTBTO, UNIDO, and COPUOS**, taking into consideration the pandemic recedes and the VIC returns to fully normal functioning and in-person meeting resume. Indeed, after a gap of two years, the upcoming General Conference (GC) will hold particular significance, in terms of **brooding expectation that the GC resolutions need to be substantively updated to reflect current developments and provide fresh guidance to the Secretariat.**

Needles to recall that the Group is highly **supportive of the three initiatives launched by the DG of IAEA – Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC), NUTEC Plastics and “Rays of Hope”**. Recognizing that the three initiatives pertain to challenges, which are of particular interest to developing countries, the Group stands ready to work with other partners, especially EU to ensure their success.

**In this respect, the Group would like to hear about the EU's priorities at the IAEA in 2022, in particular the upcoming General Conference, and its ideas on best to achieve our shared objectives.** We look forward to engaging with EU on the resolutions steered by the Group in a constructive manner and a way to reach this complementarity that we want for the benefit of the IAEA and its members States.

**Concerning UNODC, many topics of such importance for our groups are on the agenda of UNODC and many resolutions needs to be implemented through our cooperation.** The Group believes that the experiences and good practices of the European Union in the area of combating corruption and transnational crime could improve the substance of the conventions and invites the EU to continue participating actively in the upcoming discussions of the Ad Hoc Committee on cybercrime in a constructive and open approach.



H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, G-77 Chairperson for 2022, accompanied by H.E. Stephan Klement, Head of Delegation and EU Permanent Representative to the UN Organizations in Vienna, IAEA and CTBTO and H.E. Xavier Sticker, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in Vienna.

As the largest grouping of UNIDO Member States, we look for facilitating tangible contributions towards economic recovery, capacity building, job creation and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 9, as well as **eradication of poverty** in all its forms and dimensions, **combat climate change and environmental degradation** and its impacts, **effective international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation**, through the **exchange of knowledge, capacity building** and the **transfer of technology** on mutually agreed terms

On non-proliferation, The Group expresses its full support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and stresses the need for an early Entry into Force (EIF) of the CTBT and its universalization, with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

On space matters, The G-77's **key priorities** at COPUOS are mainly to ensure that space activities contribute to socio-economic development in developing countries, including the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through **the promotion of the "Space2030" Agenda, the enhancement of international cooperation as well as the promotion inclusivity and gender equality in space activities.**

**In closing, I believe on the high potential of our cooperation on the basis of a collaborative approach dynamic interaction, positive dialogue to be enhanced, sustained and institutionalized through a record of our today meeting and it's concrete outcome to be codified by our secretariat as a basis for the assessment of the dialogue between the G-77 and the EU and it's substantial contribution to multilateral Vienna topics in the perspective of the global assessment of the implementation 2030 SDG Agenda.**



Political Dialogue between the G-77 and the EU, hosted by the EU Delegation.

The background features a light gray grid of dots that tapers from the top right towards the bottom left. A white rectangular box is positioned in the lower-left area, containing the main text. A vertical orange line is located to the left of the text box. The text is in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

**HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE  
G-77 CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE  
VIENNA CHAPTER FOR 2023**





Executive Heads of the Vienna-based organizations present during the Handover Ceremony on 26 January 2023: A/D Niklas Hedman (UNOOSA), DG Rafael Mariano Grossi (IAEA), DG Gerd Müller (UNIDO), DG/ED Ghada Fathi Waly (UNOV/UNODC), the outgoing and incoming Chairpersons of the G-77, Dir. Junan Zhang (CTBTO) and Sec Anna Joubin-Bret (UNCITRAL).  
Photo Credit: Dean Calma / IAEA





H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco, delivers remarks as Chairperson of the G-77 for 2022.  
Photo Credit: Dean Calma / IAEA



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

## *G-77 Handover Ceremony 2023*

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

*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.**

**Remarks by Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher on the Occasion of Pakistan's  
Assumption of the Chair of the Vienna Chapter of the G77 and China (26  
January 2023)**

**Excellencies,**

**Dear Colleagues,**

It is a great honour and privilege for me personally as well as for my delegation to be officially assuming the Chairmanship of the Group of 77.

At the outset, I would like to thank and appreciate the outgoing Chair, my dear friend Ambassador Azeddine Farhane, and his team for Morocco's excellent leadership of the Group during the last year.

I would also like to thank the Executive Heads of the Vienna-based organizations for their presence with us today which signals their strong support to the Group and its objectives.

Pakistan has an abiding commitment to the G77 and the values, ideals and principles it espouses. This commitment is reflected in Pakistan's chairmanship of the Group in New York in 2022 where we worked diligently to advance the common political and economic interests of developing countries. With your support, we intend to continue that admirable work here in Vienna while being guided by the same devotion and commitment.

We are conscious of the immense responsibility we are assuming in taking up the G77 Chair in Vienna at a time when the international community, in particular the developing countries, are facing multiple and multidimensional challenges. The ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic cast a long shadow and decades' worth of developmental goals stand eroded. Climate change and extreme weather events are wreaking havoc across the globe. Despite having a negligible carbon footprint, it is the developing countries which are paying the heaviest price. This was painfully brought home to us during the recent devastating floods in Pakistan. Conflicts which spur irregular migration and refugee crises continue to rage. Organized crime and the drug problem not only remain undefeated but metastasize on the back of modern technologies. Illicit financial flows continue to drain the meagre resources of developing countries and the return of proceeds of crime and stolen assets remains a distant dream. Food insecurity and disease plague vast swathes of the globe. Disrupted supply chains and rising energy prices continue to widen the rich poor gap even further. To compound all these challenges, the multilateralist system and institutions are themselves under a strain which inhibits their ability to facilitate the search for consensus-based solutions.

Our collective work in Vienna in close partnership with the Vienna-based organizations could not be more consequential and impactful in helping us grapple with these multiple, interrelated and evolving challenges.



The Vienna Chapter of the G-77 has always risen to the task of effectively defending and advancing the developing countries' shared interests in the different fora. We can achieve much more when we actively participate in the Group's work and when we are united and speak with one voice.

I would like to assure you that my team and I will make every effort to protect and promote the interests of the Group. Together, we will strive for more fairness in the international system by pushing for balanced, equitable and non-discriminatory policies and approaches. We will develop and project common positions on thematic issues handled at the Vienna-based organizations to ensure that their work responds more effectively to their priorities of developing countries. In doing so, we will be guided by the spirit of consensus; we will first aim to resolve, and if we cannot do that, avoid issues which could undermine the Group's solidarity. A sustained and constructive dialogue with our partners outside the Group will also be one of our priorities to preserve the multilateral architecture.

We are confident that you will extend us your wholehearted support in this task.

I would like to assure the executive heads of the Vienna-based organizations that they can count on the Group's support just as we count upon theirs in the pursuit of our common goals.

Before concluding, I would like to acknowledge and thank our colleagues who have volunteered to serve as the Coordinators of the Group's various Task Forces.

In the end, I would like to thank all of you once again for the trust you have reposed in Pakistan in taking up this responsibility. We look forward to an excellent and productive year for the Group ahead.

Thank you.





H.E. Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco, hands over the Chairmanship of the G-77 Vienna Chapter to H.E. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Chairperson for 2023, during the Handover Ceremony held on 26 January 2023.

Photo Credit: Dean Calma / IAEA

**UNOV Director-General/UNODC Executive Director's Remarks**  
**Handover Ceremony for the Chairmanship of the Group of 77, Vienna**  
**Chapter**  
**Thursday, January 26, 10:30 AM, CR-1**

Mr. Chair,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour to join you today at the handover ceremony for the chairmanship of the Group of 77, Vienna Chapter.

I would like to start by commending and thanking Ambassador Ezzedine Farhane of Morocco for his leadership of the Group throughout the past year, and congratulating Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher of Pakistan for assuming the Chairmanship.

As Chair of the G-77 Vienna Chapter, Ambassador Farhane was a steadfast partner for the Vienna-based organizations, and we are grateful for his support and leadership.

For the UN Office at Vienna and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, our partnership with the G-77 is very much at the heart of our purpose and our work.

During the past year, as the world grappled with crises and developing countries suffered the gravest consequences, we worked together to ensure stronger responses in the face of growing risks of crime and exploitation.

Throughout 2022, UNODC's total delivery reached a record high of more than 330 million dollars' worth of projects implemented.

This included over 140 million dollars' worth of projects implemented through our regional offices across the G77 regions, providing technical assistance and building capacities.

We also implemented projects worth more than 190 million dollars through our global programmes, addressing many issues of priority for the G77, such as terrorism, corruption, and countering different forms of trafficking.

Last year we also launched our first-ever Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean and continued to implement our Strategic Vision for Africa, focusing on initiatives that provide for an integrated and continental approach.

As emergencies around the world continued to rage, we were present to support responses, including to prevent illicit flows from Afghanistan and to counter the impact of drugs in and around the country, and to assist UN efforts to restore security and the rule of law in Haiti.

To help stabilize soaring food prices following the outbreak of conflict in Ukraine, we provided UNODC inspectors to support the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which has facilitated the export of more than 18 million metric tons of grain and foodstuffs to date.

And at the COP27 climate conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, where developing countries took a historic step for climate justice through the loss and damages fund, we were there to support your cause, and to shed light on crimes that affect the environment and how they rob developing countries of resources and livelihoods.

But now I would like to look forward, to the important milestones ahead of us.

This year, the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption will convene its tenth session, while marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention.

It is a real opportunity to revitalize global efforts against corruption, which remains a major obstacle to sustainable development, peace and security, as well as to emergency recovery.

This year will also be pivotal for ongoing negotiations to establish a UN convention on the criminal misuse of ICTs, an instrument that can make digital spaces safer and address urgent gaps in knowledge and capacity, and I am quite optimistic that Member States will continue to make progress towards a convention.

And as global risks persist, we will continue to work with you to identify and deliver the assistance you need against emerging threats.

Meanwhile, we remain committed to improving geographical representation in our staff, to reflect the diversity of the United Nations and the people we serve.

At UNODC, the share of staff from under-represented regions increased in 2022, while the share from the most represented regional group has declined.

Excellencies,

The Group of 77 speaks for billions of people around the world from 134 Member States.

I have always been and will always be proud to be from a G77 Member State.

I am also hugely proud and impressed to see the Group's members taking the lead at some of the most central international bodies in Vienna.

This year, the Chair of the CND, Colombia, the Chair of the CCPCJ, Kenya, and the Chair of the ad-hoc committee negotiating the cybercrime convention, Algeria, are all G77 countries, and I am confident that their leadership will pave the path to progress.

In a world that grows more polarized every day, the commitment of the G77 to multilateralism ignites hope, and this Vienna Chapter is a testament to the role of the Group as a voice of reason, and as a vital player in the pursuit of just and sustainable development.

I look forward to continuing our excellent partnership, under the able leadership of Ambassador Khokher, and I wish him and all of you a very fruitful year. Thank you.





H.E. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan, delivers his acceptance speech as Chairperson of the G-77 for 2023.  
Photo Credit: Dean Calma / IAEA

## Statement by Mr Gerd MÜLLER, UNIDO Director General at the G-77 Handover Ceremony on 26 January 2023

Conference Room 1, C-building, 2nd floor

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be with you here today.

First of all, let me congratulate Ambassador Khokher of Pakistan on his election as the Chairperson of the Group for 2023.

I look forward to working with you and strengthening the cooperation between UNIDO and the G-77 under your leadership.

I also want to thank Ambassador Farhane of Morocco for his strong leadership as Chairperson of the G-77 Vienna Chapter during 2022.

Excellency, I wish you all the best for the future.

At the G-77 Handover Ceremony in January last year, I promised to work closely with you. This was one of my very first engagements as UNIDO's new DG.

I promised to be your partner working on the many challenges we face: ☐ Climate change, poverty and hunger are the most urgent issues to solve.

Over the past year, the energy crisis and global inflation have created additional challenges.

As always, the poorest are those affected most.

A lot of progress has been made over the past decade. ☐ Industrialization lifted millions of people out of poverty.

Now, we stand at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda.

I am very sad to say that we see setbacks on many fronts.

This is why I call for “progress by innovation”, why I am modernizing UNIDO, and why I call for global solidarity.

As the voice of your countries, I have raised issues critical to the G-77:

- o at the G20 Summit in Indonesia (fair trade),
- o at the COP27 in Sharm-El Sheik (loss and damage finance),
- o and at the African Union Industrialization Summit in Niger (local manufacturing and value addition).

UNIDO will continue to be a partner at your side!

Now we need to move to action based on your needs and priorities.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2023 is also the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Office of the G-77 Vienna Chapter.

It has been hosted and financially supported by UNIDO since 1998.

And UNIDO is committed to hosting the Office in the future!

I welcome Ms. Crosby Plaza from Venezuela. She follows Anne-Marie Heuls to support the important work of the Vienna Chapter of the G-77. She will channel your ideas and priorities.

Excellencies,

For UNIDO to do our important work effectively, we need adequate human and financial resources.

2022 was a year of reforms – we carried out an organizational restructuring and focused on a leaner management structure and greater efficiencies.

2023 will be very important to get UNIDO ready for the future.

You will discuss the Programme and Budgets for the 2024-2025 biennium, at a time where also this Organization is heavily affected by increased costs.

I look forward to the strong support of the G-77, to your strong support.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The G-77 countries are most important to UNIDO:

Developing countries and emerging economies need international support to solve today's great challenges.

UNIDO is your voice and your partner! I again congratulate you, Ambassador Khokher.

I wish you every success. with you and the group I look forward to working Together we can achieve so much!

Thank you.

---

## 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.

**Remarks by Acting UNOOSA Director Niklas Hedman at the  
Handover Ceremony of the G-77 Vienna Chapter**

Thursday, 26 January 2023, 10:30 a.m.

CR-1, C-Building, 2nd floor

Your Excellencies,  
dear distinguished Ambassadors Farhane and Khokher,  
distinguished delegates of the G77,

During my 17 years serving as Secretary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), and in my last 10 months serving as Acting Director of UNOOSA, I've been impressed by the professionalism, engagement, and support received, from G77 countries.

Through COPUOS, G77 members have played leading roles in the development of the global governance of outer space activities. This legal framework underpins the safe and sustainable use of outer space, which as we all know, is necessary for sustainable development here on Earth. For those of you looking at developing spaceports, operating satellites in orbit, and establishing industrial hubs, UNOOSA is ready to provide guidance to all nations on establishing robust national legislation that implements the rights and obligations under international space law.

Excellencies,

My UNOOSA team and I are passionate about bringing the benefits of space to the G-77 because space is not science fiction; nations can and should use space technology every day. From the GPS in your car; internet banking; monitoring of illegal fishing and climate change, tele-medicine and education in remote areas, precision farming, and disaster management... the G-77 can always do more to leverage space. And it's not just countries that need to incorporate space-based applications into their domestic strategies; from the examples I've just given, it's clear that space intersects with the work of all the Vienna-based international organizations.

The 2023 UN General Assembly Summit on the SDGs will be an important milestone for the international community. With over 20 projects and programmes addressing 15 of the 17 SDGs, UNOOSA is committed to helping

Member States achieve their Sustainable Development Goals and implement the landmark 2021 resolution, the *“Space2030” Agenda: space as a driver of sustainable development.*” We think COPUOS could, again, provide an important contribution to the political declaration. Leading up to the Summit, UNOOSA will also launch the *Space Solutions Compendium*, which is an online database of national and international Space4SDGs projects, which can support your capacity-building requirements.

Finally, with the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS due to take place from February 6-17, my team and I stand ready discuss your priorities for outer space. And if you’re not aware, COPUOS is the fastest-growing UN intergovernmental fora. From the original 24 Member States in 1959, at the height of the space race, to 102 today, space is rising up the international agenda. If your country is not already a member of COPUOS, we can share information on how to join.

We all need space, and space needs you.

Please come and join the journey.

Thank you.













Vienna International Centre  
Wagramerstr. 5, P.O. Box 300,  
A-1400 Vienna, Austria



+0-26026 (1) 43



[www.unido.org](http://www.unido.org)



[unido@unido.org](mailto:unido@unido.org)



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION