

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

Your Excellency Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Chair of G 77 and China, Vienna Charter.

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

Your Excellency, Mr. Gerd Müller, Director General of UNIDO;

Distinguished Heads and representative of Vienna based Organizations.

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

Let me express my sincere gratitude for being part of this ceremony of XXV anniversary of the Group of 77 + China, Vienna Charter.

It was for me a great honor and privilege as the first ever Central American Representative to chair this group in 2021. As some of you recall, it was a very complicate year by the pandemic, but thanks to the commitment of all, we did our job. Our recognition once again to the task coordinators (some of them still are here) who safeguard the interest of our Group and consolidate our well-established values. 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.

During 2021 and as I said, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our presidency 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.

Be this opportunity also to thank the VBOs, in particular UNIDO, for their continued assistance provided to the Group; I highlight the excellent cooperation we have had and the continued dialogue with the different Secretariats.

What do G-77 means as a group? G-77 and China means unity in diversity; this group, one of the most importance as a like-minded group in the UN system, is the more clear example of the international commitment in multilateralism,

25 years is a timely opportunity to reflect about possible ways to improve our work. We need to reinforce the role of our Group in 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. I invite also to the future presidencies to consider a retreat to discuss our present and future as a group. 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 (particularly the length and approach of our statements), could be considered.

Finally, I can't finish without express my recognition to one special personal Annemarie Heuls. Annemarie is no just the memory of the group; she was 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 26 years. And my recognition also to Crosby Plaza, our new coordinator, for the great job she has done and she will do.

I thank you