25th Anniversary of the G77 Vienna Chapter

Statement by Mr Hua Liu,

Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation

Dear Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured to attend this celebration on behalf of the IAEA's Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and for the Agency as a whole. I congratulate the Vienna Chapter of the Group of 77 on this important 25th anniversary. Over the past two and a half decades, the Vienna Chapter has presented a united voice on many issues of key importance to the IAEA, providing consistent direction and a sense of strategic purpose that support and strengthens our work.

The Agency values its excellent relationship with the Group of 77 very highly. Our cooperation is based on transparency, mutual trust and continuous dialogue. Working together for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, we provide verification, safety and development support to Member States, making a concrete contribution to international peace and security, nuclear safety, and the attainment of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the SDGs on zero hunger, good health and well-being, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, industry, innovation and infrastructure, climate action, life below water, life on land, and partnerships for the Goals.

The IAEA provides important assistance to its Member States through its technical cooperation programme, the main vehicle through which the Agency aims to supports tangible socioeconomic development in its Member States. The technical cooperation programme is the joint responsibility of IAEA Member

States and the IAEA Secretariat. The programme supports technology transfer for the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology, providing capacity building in the form of training, fellowships and scientific visits, and procuring necessary materials.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since the Vienna Chapter of the G77 was inaugurated in 1998, IAEA membership has grown by 51 countries, 46 of which are members of the G77. This is a clear indication of the importance of the Agency to the G77 goal of promoting international and technical cooperation.

South-South or Triangular Cooperation is one of the key mechanisms used by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to help its Member States to identify and address development challenges and to make progress on the Sustainable Development Goals through nuclear and related techniques, and the countries of the G77 are highly important partners in this endeavour. I assure you of our continuing determination to ensure that the Agency meets the needs of the countries of the G77 as regards the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology in support of national priorities.

As you are aware, the Director General has initiated a number of flagship initiatives since he assumed his position: ZODIAC, which helps Member States prepare for and prevent pandemics arising from zoonotic diseases; NUTEC Plastics, which offers upstream and downstream support to address plastic pollution; and Rays of Hope, which aims to increase access to radiotherapy for cancer sufferers in underserved parts of the world. Member States interested in the potential of Small Modular Reactors – a growing area of interest for countries around the world – are receiving assistance through various different Agency activities, including the TC programme. I thank the G77 for their firm

support for each of these initiatives, and encourage your participation and contributions.

In closing, I would like to emphasize the importance of the G77 to the IAEA and to its technical cooperation programme. With your support and collaboration, we can ensure the continued delivery of support for socioeconomic development in IAEA Member States.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to assure you that the Agency remains committed to continue its work with the G-77 for the benefit of all Member States, in our established spirit of transparency, trust and dialogue.