

**Message of the Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani at the handing over ceremony of the Chair of G-77 and China, Vienna Chapter on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.**

**Dear Colleagues,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is our honour to transfer the Chair of Group of 77 and China to H.E. Ms. Laura GIL Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia.

It has been a distinguished privilege for Pakistan to preside over the Group in Vienna during the past year. I wish to thank the 135 Member States of the Group for trusting us with this august opportunity to steer the Group in these challenging times. I'm thankful to and commend the services of H.E. Mr. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to Vienna for efficiently and effectively spearheading the Group in the last year.

The Group of 77 and China is the largest Group within the United Nations. We are the key stake holder and we play a pivotal role in in working of Vienna Based Organizations. We have common interest and common destiny, we wish to promote greater equality, justice and share the economic and developmental opportunities in just and transparent manner.

Pakistan has Chaired the Group three times in the past. We have made the best efforts to highlight, protect and promote the group's interests within the Vienna based International Organizations. However, the year 2023 was most challenging due to adverse effects of global poly-crises including wars, geopolitical conflicts, natural and climate induced disasters. Member States' recovery from COVID-19 was further complicated by economic and developmental challenges, poverty, hunger and inflation.

The Group, under the Chairmanship of Pakistan continued to pursue its interests in all Vienna Based Organizations including IAEA, UNODC, UNIDO,

UNOOSA and CTBTO. The Group actively participated in meetings of policy making organs of all organizations and presented the consensus-based position of the Member States reflecting our shared interests and concerns. The Group also played its key role in maintaining our cherished 'Vienna Spirit'. South-South and triangular cooperation as well as enhancing cooperation between the Group's member states remained high on the agenda. During our tenure as the Chair, Pakistan continued to actively and transparently engage with all Member States to find common grounds for the Group on all important policy matters.

### **Excellencies**

I wish to congratulate H.E. Ms. Laura GIL on assuming the Chair of Group and I'm confident the under the able leadership and guidance of Colombia the Group will continue its journey towards realization of our common goals and aspirations.

Pakistan will extend its full cooperation and support to the new Chair, working closely to protect and enhance the Group's collective and shared interests in the Vienna based organizations.

I wish the Group of 77 and China every success in 2024.

I thank you all.

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