



**Statements delivered in 2024
on behalf of the G-77 and China
under the Chairmanship
of H.E. Ms. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent
Representative of Colombia**



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the 40th Session of the UNIDO Programme and Budget Committee,
10th – 11th June 2024,
delivered by H.E. Ms. Elena Freije Murillo,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Honduras**

Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2023

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, allow me, to congratulate you, Excellency Ambassador Ferenc Dancs, on your election as the Chairperson of this Committee. 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. The Group of 77 and China assures you of our full cooperation and active participation during the Session. We will endeavor to make your work easier, by contributing meaningfully on matters pertinent to the Group.
3. The Group would like to commend His Excellency Ambassador Aftab Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, and members of his Bureau for the sterling work they carried out during the 39th session of the PBC.
4. The Group also wishes to thank the Secretariat for the preparatory work, including the issuance of documents for the session.
5. The Group takes note of the introductory remarks of Director General Gerd Müller and reiterates its support for his leadership of UNIDO. In particular, the Group appreciates the Director-General's ongoing efforts to implement ambitious, timely, and much-needed reforms to reduce costs, modernize the Organization, and make it more efficient, in line with the needs of Member States, in particular developing countries.
6. The Group also welcomes the accession of Palau and South Sudan as new Member States, thereby strengthening UNIDO's global presence and impact.
7. The Group notes with appreciation the establishment of 29 partnerships with the private sector, facilitating collaboration and resource mobilization for impactful projects and underscoring the significance of public-private cooperation in advancing sustainable development goals.
8. The Group reaffirms the great importance it attaches to all the initiatives, activities, and programs implemented or planned by the Organization during the period covered in the report. We encourage the Director General and the Secretariat to continue working towards full

implementation of the Organization's mandate, to put developing countries and economies in transition on the path towards economic and social prosperity through industrialization.

9. The Group commends UNIDO for achieving a 25% increase in the provision of technical cooperation services, coupled with the successful mobilization of 44% of the required funds, as mentioned in the Director General's 2023 Annual Report PROGRESS BY INNOVATION.

Mr. Chair,

10. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and to avoid promulgating and imposing any unilateral coercive 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 attain the sustainable development goals.

11. The Group emphasizes the importance of promoting gender balance and gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW) in line with national laws and within the context of ISID, and in this regards welcomes the substantial 50% surge in projects directly addressing gender-related issues in 2023 and UNIDO's programmes and activities undertaken in the developing countries. The Group encourages the Director General to allocate sufficient resources to ensure the achievement of the GEEW-related results and targets.

12. The Group notes the divergent views of Member States of the Organization regarding the "UNIDO operational strategy for gender equality and the empowerment of women 2024-2027" and stresses that the Reports of UNIDO shall use language that respects the cultural diversity of Member States.

13. The Group acknowledges UNIDO's dedication to Clean Energy and Climate Action, particularly through its promotion of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and the production and utilization of green hydrogen. In this regard, the Group recognizes the promotion of the Second Energy Transition in Uruguay through the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund (REIF) and encourages the Organization to extend this programme to other Member States.

14. The Group supports initiatives designed to pilot innovative technologies in developing countries, aiming to advance the circular economy and environmentally sustainable industry.

15. Highlighting regional collaboration and economic advancement, the Group acknowledges the establishment of a new agro-industrial park shared between Zambia and Zimbabwe and encourages UNIDO to implement similar initiatives in other Member States. This initiative underscores the significance of cross-border partnerships in driving economic growth and fostering sustainable development in the region.

16. The Group calls upon UNIDO to persist in advocating for fair and sustainable supply chains, promoting trade and investment, and helping companies to embrace cutting-edge technologies, including smart technologies and artificial intelligence thus enhancing the value addition of SMEs.

17. The Group encourages further strategic collaborations with partners to support initiatives like the Trade Competitiveness and Market Access Initiative for Africa.

18. To promote global development, the Group encourages UNIDO to consider strengthening existing and developing new Country Programmes (CPs) and Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) with a view to implementing more projects on agri-food industry, food security, industrial upgrading and adding value to products with high export potential.

19. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Annual Report of the Director General for 2023 as contained in document PBC.40/2.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the 40th Session of the UNIDO Programme and Budget Committee,
10th – 11th June 2024,
delivered by H.E. Ms. Elena Freije Murillo,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Honduras**

Agenda Item 4: Report of the External Auditor for 2023

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group takes note of the Report of the External Auditor on the accounts of the UNIDO for the financial year starting from 1 January to 31 December 2023, as contained in Document PBC.40/4.
2. The Group welcomes the continuation of the approach by the External Auditor to focus on three main areas of audit, namely, financial audit, performance audit and IT audit, with the aim of providing the best overview of the operations of UNIDO while keeping focus on risks and the interests of key stakeholders.
3. The Group is pleased with the sustained use of the classification system to categorize the findings and recommendations as either critical, high, medium, or low priority in terms of actions 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. In this regard, we note that, of the new recommendations by the External Auditor, 1 is considered of high priority and 6 are of medium priority. Nonetheless, the Group encourages the Organization to fully implement all these recommendations on an equal basis to further improve efficiency, transparency and motivation of employees. The Group also notes that the number of newly issued recommendations is limited given the significant number of open recommendations from prior years.
5. The Group further notes with concern that of the 57 recommendations from prior years that have been validated by the External Auditor, only 15 have been implemented while implementation of 33 are ongoing and 9 have not been implemented at all. We call upon UNIDO to strengthen its efforts to improve its rate of compliance with the recommendations of the External Auditor. We urge the Organization to continue working on the partially resolved observations and to address the open and ongoing issues in the report, regardless of their identified priority rankings.
6. The Group expresses its appreciation to Mr Alexei Kudrin and Ms Galina Izotova from the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation for their dedicated work and contribution to UNIDO as External Auditors from 2020 until 2023, and also welcomes Mr. Ali Hassan Rashwan, Undersecretary at the Accountability State Authority of Egypt, as the new External Auditor for the

next biennium, with expectation of his professional judgement and independent audit to continue the work to help improve the operation of UNIDO.

7. Concluding, the Group strongly encourages the Organization to carry on with its initiatives that aim at streamlining, rationalizing, capacitating, and improving UNIDO's management and operation, particularly with regard to the Organization's accountability mechanisms.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the 40th Session of the UNIDO Programme and Budget Committee,
10th – 11th June 2024,**

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 by the Director General on the Financial Situation of UNIDO as contained in document IDB.52/5-PBC.40/5 and takes note of the the rate of collection of 2024 assessed contributions of 21.3 per cent, as compared to those of 2023 and 2022 and commends Member States that have paid their assessed contributions on time.

2. The Group encourages all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time in order to maintain a healthy and stable financial outlook for the Organization. Predictable, sufficient, and assured funding remains vital for UNIDO to effectively deliver its core mandate of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States, particularly developing countries. In this regard, the Group also recognizes difficulties some Member States experience for reasons beyond their control in paying their full contributions on time.

3. The Group takes note of the rate of collection of prior years' arrears, which is now 2.2 per cent, compared to 4.3 percent in 2023. 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 also appreciates 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. The Group also encourages the Director General to further expand the discussions with former Member States to include the possibility of their return to the Organization.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Group encourages UNIDO to continuously optimize internal management, improve organizational efficiency and effectiveness, and to avoid unnecessary waste of resources and minimize the financial pressure of Member States.

6. The Group also encourages UNIDO to rationalize the allocation of resources and professional staff on project implementation aimed at technical cooperation (TC) efficiency increase.

7. The Group also wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Donor Governments, international financial institutions, the European Union and other partners from the donor community for their contributions. The Group strongly encourages UNIDO to exert more efforts towards resource mobilization for its activities to attain inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

8. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the draft decision on this agenda item.

Thank you Mr. Chair



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the 40th Session of the UNIDO Programme and Budget Committee,
10th – 11th June 2024,**

Agenda Item 7: Report by 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 of the Informal Working Group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues (IWG) and is particularly grateful for the dedication and leadership of the co-chairs from Pakistan and Japan.
2. The Group is appreciative of the mandate of the IWG and believes it is a valuable platform for both the 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 mandate of the IWG has the potential to be expanded further to include discussions on emergent issues within the overall mandate and objectives of UNIDO.
3. The Group takes note of the topics that have been identified and considered in 2023 and the current year by the IWG. The topics like unutilized balance of appropriations, personnel matters, increase in technical cooperation (TC) delivery, full cost recovery and enhancing TC implementation, budget flexibility, and other related matters are of great interest to members of the Group, who continue to look forward to participating in the discussions on these matters in the IWG.
4. On personnel matters, the Group expresses serious concern with the implementation of the principle of equitable geographical representation and low level of representation of professional staff from developing countries in UNIDO particularly at the senior management level. The Group calls upon the Director General to address this concern and reiterates its request to the Secretariat to report to the 52nd session of the Industrial Development Board on the implementation of this principle, the achievements made so far and the proposals to improve the current representation of Member States in UNIDO.
5. The Group encourages all Member States to continue participating in the meetings of the IWG.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the 40th Session of the UNIDO Programme and Budget Committee,
10th – 11th June 2024,**

Agenda Item 8: Mobilization of financial resources

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the Report of the Director General on mobilization of financial resources and welcomes the increase of funds mobilized in 2023 by 44% compared to 2022.
2. The Group acknowledges the important role of the governmental donors and multilateral funds mentioned in the Report and extends its appreciation for their sustainable voluntary contributions to the projects implemented by UNIDO to realize inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
3. The Group appreciates the efforts of the Director General concerning resource mobilization and fully supports his endeavors pertaining to diversifying the sources of funding and pursuing innovative sources of financing, including through additional contributions from traditional and emerging multilateral and bilateral sources.
4. Furthermore, the Group notes that safeguarding the environment remains a focus of contributions with 62% of total funding. Therefore, it encourages the governmental donors and multilateral funds to attribute more towards other main thematic priorities of UNIDO, including advancing economic competitiveness, creating sustainable jobs, meaningfully enhancing technology transfer and fostering industrialization.
5. The Group recommends UNIDO and donors to allocate more available resources into technical cooperation projects to fulfil the urgent needs of Member States, especially the LDC countries including the countries in conflict and post-conflict situation, to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
6. The Group supports UNIDO's efforts in expanding partnerships and seeking new financing channels, within its mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development particularly for developing countries. The Group encourages UNIDO to remain resolute in developing concrete and result-oriented partnerships with funding partners and recipient countries to effectively implement CPs and PCPs and enhance cooperation to facilitate global development.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the 40th Session of the UNIDO Programme and Budget Committee,
10th – 11th June 2024,**

Agenda Item 11: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III)

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 contained in document PBC.40/11 which highlights the progress made in the implementation of IDDA III.
2. The Group highlights the pivotal role of UNIDO as the primary agency within the UN framework tasked with advancing inclusive and sustainable industrial growth in its Member States. In this regard, the Group commends the Director General of UNIDO for developing the UNIDO Africa Strategy, as adopted by the 20th session of the General Conference. The strategy serves as a unified guiding blueprint for the organization's efforts to promote industrial development across Africa. The Group encourages the Director General to continue engaging with Member States with the view to elaborate Action Plan for the implementation of the strategy and to allocate necessary funding.
3. The Group welcomes UNIDO's commitment to enhancing the technological and industrial capabilities of African countries in harnessing the 4th industrial revolution, focusing on digital transformation, innovation, and artificial intelligence. The Group further appreciates UNIDO's essential support in technology sharing and transfer, knowledge dissemination, and skills development. This includes a strong emphasis on education and training programs tailored for African women and youth, utilizing UNIDO's expertise to help create a more inclusive and technologically advanced industrial environment.
4. The Group appreciates UNIDO's various initiatives in Africa, including technical assistance activities, collaborative efforts, global forums and advocacy, and normative activities aimed at anchoring Africa on the path of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
5. The Group further welcomes the adoption of the 10th Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in November 2023 and reiterates its support to UNIDO in developing the implementation plan in consultation with Member States, to expedite the execution of the operational strategy for the Least Developed Countries 2022-2031 in synergy with the UNIDO Strategy for Africa 2023-2025 and other relevant UNIDO strategic frameworks and policies to foster global solidarity and international cooperation.
6. The Group acknowledges that UNIDO's Strategy for Post-conflict/-crisis Situations plays a pivotal role during post-conflict recovery, including through early recovery and reconstruction and

transition to development programmes, with a view to strengthen the foundations for long –lasting peace and prosperity through inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

7. In this regard, the group stresses the importance of further enhancing the implementation of the workplan for the period 2021–2025, in cooperation with its Member States, members of the United Nations development system, development partners, multilateral funds as well as multi -donor trust funds, international financial Institutions and others to fulfil the objectives of the strategy, including through creating partnerships to accelerate effective responses and integrated service packages tailored to each Member State’s individual situation, needs and priorities, and further urges UNIDO to develop a new workplan in consultation with its Member States.

8. The Group requests the Director General to report to the Member States on the developments and steps taken in this regard at the 52nd session of the Industrial Development Board in November 2024, as well as updates during the 41st PBC and 53rd IDB, and during the 21st session of the General Conference in December 2025. The Group encourages UNIDO to align the Africa Strategy with the LDC’s Strategy and UNIDO’s Strategy for Post-conflict/-crisis Situations with the view to prevent duplication and to ensure coherence and consistency in the execution of UNIDO’s industrial development initiatives, and also encourages the Director General to mobilize additional voluntary resources to this end.

9. The Group notes that in 2023, UNIDO implemented over 271 projects in Africa, with a total funding of \$55.7 million, representing a decrease compared to the \$63.3 million allocated in 2022, excluding interregional and global portfolios. These projects were carried out under the framework of the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CP).

Mr. Chair,

10. With regard to the enhancement of economic development on the African continent, the Group urges UNIDO to align its efforts with the key objectives and initiatives of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). The Group recommends further focus in promoting systemic resilience through localized manufacturing, enhancing energy efficiency with sustainable alternatives, and advancing green technologies. Furthermore, the Group emphasises the importance of harmonization of standards and the strengthening of national human capacities, which are essential for effectively addressing internal and external challenges. The Group believes that this strategic alignment would support broader goals of regional economic integration and sustainable development.

11. The Group welcomes the cooperation between UNIDO, the African Union Commission (AUC), and other relevant parties in staging the IDDA III high-level meeting held in September 2023 in New York, in the margins of 78th United Nations General Assembly. This event, highly attended, focused on the development, deployment, and retention of industrial skills in Africa. The Group calls on UNIDO to continue in assisting and rallying IDDA III partners to ensure the effective execution of the related Action Plan.

12. Considering the imminent end of the designated term for IDDA III, the Group emphasizes the critical need for the complete execution of the IDDA III Joint Roadmap and to ensure the full

recruitment of the Secretariat of IDDA III. The Group is confident that the Secretariat of IDDA III will take necessary measures towards an enhanced coordinated role in the implementation of this roadmap.

13. The Group urges UNIDO to maintain its cooperation with Member States, other United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, strategic development partners and development finance institutions to facilitate the achievement of the IDDA III objectives. Sustaining collaborative efforts between UNIDO and the African Union are essential for enhancing technical skills and policy expertise, which are necessary for the development and implementation of regional industrial strategies.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China statement during
the 52nd session of the Industrial Development Board,
25-27 November 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

**Item 3 - Annual report of the Director General for 2023: (a) Managing for results:
Update on the implementation of the medium-term programme framework 2022-
2025**

Thank you, Madam President,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to congratulate you, Her Excellency Ambassador Gabriela Sellner, on your election as President of this 52nd session of the IDB. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau for their election. The Group is confident that under your able leadership, this session will lead to productive outcomes that will strengthen the role of UNIDO in promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

2. The Group would also like to thank His Excellency Ambassador Magdi Ahmed Mofadal Elnour, Permanent Representative of Sudan, President of the 51st session and members of the Bureau for their hard work and dedication during the previous session.

3. The Group welcomes the accession of Palau, Solomon Islands and South Sudan as new Member States, thereby strengthening UNIDO's global presence and impact.

4. We take note of the introductory remarks by the Director General, Mr. Gerd Müller, on the activities and achievements of UNIDO and reaffirm our commitment to UNIDO's mandate; we look forward to fruitful discussions and constructive engagement throughout this session, with the aim of advancing our shared objectives for sustainable and resilient industrial growth.

Madame President,

5. Regarding the UNIDO Annual Report for 2023, the Group of 77 and China takes note of document IDB.52/2-PBC.40/2, which presents notable advancements in fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development amid global challenges. The Group acknowledges the efforts of UNIDO and its Director General, Mr. Gerd Müller, in guiding the Organization's transformation, enhancing its ability to mobilize resources, support Member States, and address evolving needs in sustainable industrialization.

6. The Group acknowledges the substantial 44% increase in resource mobilization for technical cooperation in 2023, amounting to \$328.4 million. This growth, supported by strategic contributions from partners like the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Montreal Protocol, strengthens UNIDO's role in assisting Member States. We also recognize the 25% increase in technical cooperation delivery, reflecting donors' sustained confidence in UNIDO's capacity to drive sustainable development. The Group requests in this regard, the implementation of the OAC recommendation that technical cooperation delivery must be linked to the actual implementation of projects and programs and that the best indicator to measure this is the actual expenditure of TC projects and programs, and TC delivery should be measured by qualitative targets.

7. The Group emphasizes that the GEF resources shall be made available to all Member States without discrimination. In this regard, the Group requests UNIDO to make utmost effort to ensure that these resources will be available for all its members.

8. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and to avoid promulgating and imposing any unilateral coercive 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 in accordance with their national priorities and goals.

9. The Group commends UNIDO's role in supporting Member States, upon request, regarding the appropriate measures pertaining to decarbonization and environmentally sustainable practices in key industrial sectors including through the Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI), which promotes sustainable technologies in the steel and cement industries. The commitments made by various economies to increase demand for low-emission materials under the IDDI at COP28 represent a significant step towards reducing emissions in carbon-intensive sectors, and we encourage UNIDO to continue expanding this initiative.

10. The Group firmly believes that adequate, sustainable, effective and demand-driven technical and material assistance, transfer of technology, and provision of equipment, as well as sharing lessons learned and best practices, are key to the fair energy transition and sustainable industrial development. In this regard, the Group emphasizes that States that are in need of such support, shall be assisted to ensure that sustainable development will be achieved by all without discrimination.

11. We acknowledge UNIDO's work in promoting sustainable global and regional supply chains, including through digital technologies and artificial intelligence solutions. These efforts foster sustainability in production processes and assist Member States in meeting international standards.

Equitable Geographical Distribution of UNIDO Personnel

12. The Group reiterates its long-standing request for improvements in the equitable geographical distribution of UNIDO personnel, especially at senior and management levels. We again request an update on the impact of structural reforms within the Secretariat, including their influence on staff morale and geographic representation. We believe that equitable distribution is essential to reflect the diversity of Member States and foster greater inclusion.

13. The Group also reaffirms the importance of guaranteeing predictable, sufficient, and varied funding to support the organization's long-term financial sustainability. We encourage UNIDO to continue exploring innovative and diversified funding sources, including voluntary contributions and dedicated financial resources, to ensure the effective and continuous fulfillment of its mandate. We look forward to receiving an update on initiatives undertaken in this direction.

Expansion of Country Programmes (PCPs) and South-South Cooperation

14. To promote global development, the Group encourages UNIDO to consider strengthening existing and developing new Country Programmes (CPs) and Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) with a view to implementing more projects on agri-food industry, food security, industrial upgrading and adding value to products with high export potential so as to benefit the Global South. We also encourage UNIDO to intensify its efforts to expand these programmes and strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation to enhance collaboration and knowledge-sharing among developing countries.

15. The Group of 77 and China recognizes UNIDO's significant progress in promoting equitable opportunities, particularly in the inclusion of women and youth across its programs. The positive impact seen in the Middle East and North Africa region, where more women entrepreneurs are establishing successful businesses, serves as a valuable model. We encourage UNIDO to continue these impactful initiatives and extend them to all regions to promote inclusive and sustainable development.

16. The Group emphasizes the importance of promoting gender balance and gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW) in line with national laws and within the context of ISID, and in this regards welcomes the substantial 50% surge in projects directly addressing gender-related issues in 2023 and UNIDO's programmes and activities undertaken in the developing countries. The Group encourages the Director General to allocate sufficient resources to ensure the achievement of the GEEW-related results and targets.

17. The Group notes the divergent views of Member States of the Organization regarding the "UNIDO operational strategy for gender equality and the empowerment of

women 2024-2027” and stresses that the Reports of UNIDO shall use language that respects the cultural diversity of Member States.

Madame President,

18. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the critical findings raised in document the Assurance Review on UNIDO's Internal Governance Mechanisms, published on 5 November 2024, highlighting the need for immediate improvements in aligning the organization's purpose with its governance practices and daily operations. We note significant deficiencies in strategic direction, inter-divisional coordination, and clarity around the Director General's priorities, especially in key areas like clean energy, climate action, food security, and sustainable supply chains. The Group notes the management response annexed to the aforementioned document, including the commitment to further elaborate the needed measures, in particular through the ongoing formulation and update of management action plans, to address the findings and observations from this review. We also request additional periodic progress reports to ensure the implementation of the recommendations introduced by the External Auditor, the independent Oversight Advisory Committee and the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight.

19. The Group welcomes the revitalization of the Multilateral Diplomatic Committee (MDC). We are looking forward to its activities along with the resolution establishing the Committee.

20. The Group also welcomes the launch of the Group of Friends of Food Security in Vienna, co-chaired by Sudan and Italy, and calls upon UNIDO and Member States to support the activities of this Group, including by providing more resources and targeted investments to the agenda of food security, in accordance with UNIDO's mandate.

Thank you, Madam President.

Item 4 - Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

Thank you, Madam President,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to convey its appreciation to H.E. Mr. Ferenc Dancs, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Hungary and President of the 40th session of the Programme and Budget Committee, for the Report of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC). The Group wishes to reiterate the following points:

(a) Report of the External Auditor for 2023

1. The Group takes note of the Report of the External Auditor on the accounts of the UNIDO for the financial year starting from 1 January to 31 December 2023, as contained in Document IDB.52/4-PBC.40/4.
2. The Group welcomes the continuation of the approach by the External Auditor to focus on three main areas of audit, namely, financial audit, performance audit and IT audit, with the aim of providing the best overview of the operations of UNIDO while keeping focus on risks and the interests of key stakeholders.
3. The Group is pleased with the sustained use of the classification system to categorize the findings and recommendations as either critical, high, medium, or low priority in terms of actions 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. In this regard, we note that, of the new recommendations by the External Auditor, 1 is considered of high priority and 6 are of medium priority. Nonetheless, the Group encourages the Organization to fully implement all these recommendations on an equal basis to further improve efficiency, transparency and motivation of employees. The Group also notes that the number of newly issued recommendations is limited given the significant number of open recommendations from prior years.
5. The Group urges UNIDO management to prioritize the implementation of these recommendations, in particular developing new technical cooperation guidelines, through a clear action plan with specific timelines and designated responsibilities to address and enhance the Organization operational capacity.
6. The Group further notes with concern that of the 57 recommendations from prior years that have been validated by the External Auditor, only 15 have been implemented while implementation of 33 are ongoing and 9 have not been implemented at all. We call upon UNIDO to strengthen its efforts to improve its rate of compliance with the recommendations of the External Auditor. We urge the Organization to continue working on the partially resolved observations and to address the open and ongoing issues in the report, regardless of their identified priority rankings.
7. The Group expresses its appreciation to Mr Alexei Kudrin and Ms Galina Izotova from the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation for their dedicated work and contribution to UNIDO as External Auditors from 2020 until 2023, and also welcomes Mr. Ali Hassan Rashwan, Undersecretary at the Accountability State Authority of Egypt, as the new External Auditor for the next biennium, with expectation of his professional judgement and independent audit to continue the work to help improve the operation of UNIDO.
8. Concluding, the Group strongly encourages the Organization to carry on with its initiatives that aim at streamlining, rationalizing, capacitating, and improving UNIDO's

management and operation, particularly with regard to the Organization's accountability mechanisms.

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

9. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report by the Director General on UNIDO's financial situation as of 31 March 2024. We value the organization's efforts to manage its financial resources amid global challenges, and we reaffirm our commitment to supporting UNIDO's financial stability.

10. We note that regular budget appropriations for 2024 amount to €80.1 million, with an execution rate of 26.3% in the first quarter. Operational budget appropriations stand at €23.6 million, with an execution rate of 20.5%.

11. We also appreciate UNIDO's efforts to enhance efficiency through digitalization and the implementation of full cost recovery (FCR), which allow for maximized resource utilization. We encourage UNIDO to continue strengthening these initiatives, which we view as essential for optimizing project management and ensuring the Organization's long-term financial sustainability. In this regard, the Group supports the recommendation of the External Auditor, supported by OAC, to develop a cost accounting system to provide a mechanism to determine the actual cost in support of the FCR system.

(d) Report by the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues

12. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report presented by the Co-Chairs of the Informal Working Group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues. We recognize the valuable role this group plays in facilitating constructive dialogue among Member States on budgetary and administrative matters that are critical to the effective functioning of UNIDO.

13. The Group of 77 and China would like to emphasize its appreciation of the mandate of the IWG and believes that it is a valuable platform for both the Secretariat and Member States to deliberate and explore possible recommendations on important issues, including the programme and budgets of UNIDO and, therefore, encourages all Member States to continue participating in the meetings of the IWG. Since the 51st Session of the IDB the Informal Working Group held 13 meetings and discussed important issues including investment and upgradation of IT, unutilized balance of appropriations, personnel matters, increase in TC delivery, full cost recovery, findings and recommendations from EIO and briefing by OAC. The Group remains thankful to Secretariat and the Director General for its support to Informal Working Group.

(e) Mobilization of financial resources

14. The Group of 77 and China acknowledges the report provided by the Director General on the mobilization of financial resources for UNIDO's activities. In 2023, funds

raised increased by 44% compared to 2022, reaching \$328.4 million, marking a new record. This outcome indicates the Organization's capacity to attract financial support.

15. The Group appreciates the efforts of the Director General concerning resource mobilization and fully supports his endeavors pertaining to diversifying the sources of funding and pursuing innovative sources of financing, including through additional contributions from traditional and emerging multilateral and bilateral sources.

16. Furthermore, the Group notes that safeguarding the environment remains a focus of contributions with 62% of total funding. Therefore, it encourages the governmental donors and multilateral funds to attribute more towards other main thematic priorities of UNIDO, including advancing economic competitiveness, creating sustainable jobs, meaningfully enhancing technology transfer and fostering industrialization.

17. The Group supports UNIDO's efforts in expanding partnerships and seeking new financing channels, within its mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development particularly for developing countries. The Group encourages UNIDO to remain resolute in developing concrete and result-oriented partnerships with funding partners and recipient countries to effectively implement CPs and PCPs and enhance cooperation to facilitate global development.

Thank you, Madam President.

Item 7 - Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III)

Thank you, Madam President,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) as contained in document PBC.40/11 which highlights the progress made in the implementation of IDDA III.

2. The Group encourages the Director General to continue engaging with Member States with the view to elaborate Action Plan for the implementation of the UNIDO Africa Strategy 2023-2025 and to allocate necessary funding to this end.

3. The Group welcomes UNIDO's commitment to enhancing the technological and industrial capabilities of African countries in harnessing the 4th industrial revolution, focusing on digital transformation, innovation, and artificial intelligence.

4. The Group further appreciates UNIDO's essential support in meaningfully enhancing technology transfer, knowledge dissemination, and skills development. This includes a strong emphasis on education and training programs tailored for the needs and

priorities of African women and youth, utilizing UNIDO's expertise to help create a more inclusive and technologically advanced industrial environment.

Madam President,

5. The Group welcomes the adoption of the 10th Ministerial Declaration of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in November 2023 and supports UNIDO in consulting with Member States to develop the implementation plan to expedite the operational strategy for LDCs 2022-2031 in synergy with the UNIDO Strategy for Africa 2023-2025 and other relevant frameworks to foster global solidarity and cooperation.

6. The Group acknowledges the pivotal role of UNIDO's Strategy for Post-conflict/-crisis Situations in post-conflict recovery, including early recovery, reconstruction, and transition to development programmes, aiming to strengthen foundations for long-lasting peace and prosperity through inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

7. The Group stresses the importance of enhancing the implementation of the 2021–2025 workplan and developing a new work plan in consultation with Member States and other relevant UN development system members and partners within their respective mandates. Including through creating partnerships for effective responses and tailored integrated service packages for each Member State's needs and priorities.

8. The Group notes that in 2023, UNIDO implemented over 271 projects in Africa, with a total funding of \$55.7 million, representing a decrease compared to the \$63.3 million allocated in 2022, excluding interregional and global portfolios. These projects were carried out under the framework of the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CP).

9. The Group urges UNIDO to align its efforts with the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) to enhance economic development in Africa. This includes promoting systemic resilience through localized manufacturing, enhancing energy efficiency with sustainable alternatives, and advancing green technologies. The Group also emphasizes the importance of harmonizing standards and strengthening national human capacities to address challenges effectively, supporting regional economic integration and sustainable development.

10. The Group takes note of the independent strategic evaluation for the IDDA III 2016-2025 undertaken by the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight and calls upon UNIDO to implement the recommendations stipulated therein to address the challenges that faced IDDA III implementation, including a lack of effective coordination, weak knowledge management and limited funding. The Group further requests UNIDO to work in tandem with the African Union Commission and other relevant African stakeholders on developing IDDA IV.

11. Considering the imminent end of the designated term for IDDA III, the Group emphasizes the critical need for the complete execution of the IDDA III Joint Roadmap and to ensure the full recruitment of the Secretariat of IDDA III. The Group is confident that the Secretariat of IDDA III will take necessary measures towards an enhanced coordinated role in the implementation of this roadmap.

12. The Group urges UNIDO to maintain its cooperation with Member States, other United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, strategic development partners and development finance institutions to facilitate the achievement of the IDDA III objectives. Sustaining collaborative efforts between UNIDO and the African Union are essential for enhancing technical skills and policy expertise, which are necessary for the development and implementation of regional industrial strategies.

13. The Group welcomes the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in September, 2024 witnessed by UNIDO, and the outcome documents, the Beijing Declaration and the Action Plan. The Group supports UNIDO's efforts in promoting the establishment of the demonstration center for China-Africa (Ethiopia)-UN (UNIDO) cooperation, and encourages UNIDO to make full use of the center to help create a more inclusive and technologically advanced industrial environment, and advance the modernization in Africa.

Thank you, Madam President.

Item 8 - Climate neutral industry and circular economy

Thank you, Madam President,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the updates provided by the Director General on UNIDO's activities related to climate neutrality and the circular economy. We recognize the significant steps taken by UNIDO to advance these priorities, including the development of an action plan for the implementation of the UNIDO Climate Change Strategy. We welcome the establishment of an inter-directorate task force to coordinate this action plan.

2. The Group welcomes the endorsement of UNIDO's strategy in response to climate change during the 51st session of the Industrial Development Board and takes note of the ongoing work regarding the development of an action plan for this strategy in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, in particular Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund.

3. The Group underscores that the action plan shall be guided by the low-greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development principle, and enhance the efficiency,

effectiveness and coordination of UNIDO's activities in support of Member States climate priorities related to the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development.

4. The Group supports the strategy's aims of enhancing UNIDO's role in arranging an adequate, sustainable 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, early adoption and implementation of climate related technologies and innovations, according to their national policies and priorities.

5. The Group expresses its concern regarding the introduction of climate change-related trade-restrictive measures, including border carbon taxes, which severely affect the smooth flow of industrial exports of developing countries. In this regard, the Group emphasizes that the envisaged action plan shall highlight the needed programs and activities to be undertaken to support developing countries in mitigating such measures.

6. We commend UNIDO for its ongoing efforts to integrate circular economy principles across diverse sectors and regions, demonstrated through initiatives like the SWITCH to Circular Economy Value Chains project. Such initiatives exemplify UNIDO's capacity to facilitate the transition to sustainable industrial practices in developing economies, enhancing both environmental sustainability and economic resilience. We particularly note the importance of these initiatives to developing countries, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) who are on the front lines of climate change, and thus, would greatly benefit from such interventions.

7. We encourage UNIDO to take into account that many developing countries are producers of the critical minerals that can contribute to carbon neutrality, and that UNIDO can support the development of the value chain in order to contribute to their economic development.

8. The Group values the impact of the Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme, which has promoted circular economy practices and climate sustainability in seven countries with support from the Swiss government. This programme serves as an example of how circular approaches can make industrial parks more competitive and climate-responsible, advancing sustainable development.

9. The Group also values the collaboration between UNIDO and key partners, including the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, and the Green Climate Fund, to implement programs that address plastic waste, resource efficiency, and eco-industrial parks. These partnerships are crucial for mobilizing resources and technical expertise, enabling Member States to adopt innovative, low-carbon, and resource-efficient practices that duly take into account that industry in developing countries is not a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

10. The Group encourages UNIDO to continue facilitating knowledge exchange and capacity-building efforts on circular economy practices, particularly through regional dialogues and high-visibility events like the World Circular Economy Forum.

Thank you, Madam President.

Item 9 - Inclusive and sustainable development in middle-income countries

Madam President,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report provided by the Director General on inclusive and sustainable development in middle-income countries (MICs). We recognize the diverse challenges and significant contributions of MICs in achieving global development objectives, particularly in the areas of poverty reduction, economic growth, and environmental sustainability. UNIDO's tailored approach to partnering with MICs aligns with our priorities and supports these countries in navigating the complex pathways of industrialization and sustainable development particularly sustainable development goal (SDG) #9.

2. We take note of the establishment of the Global Alliance for Responsible and Green Minerals, and we call on UNIDO to enhance cooperation in order to enable developing countries benefit from the mining industry and build their value chain, taking into account that such cooperation can make a valuable contribution to the economic development of many developing countries.

3. We appreciate UNIDO's efforts in fostering partnerships and convening platforms such as the Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum, which will facilitate knowledge exchange on sustainable industrial policy among MICs. We believe that such platforms are key for enabling MICs to access resources, expertise, and innovative solutions that support inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

4. The Group of 77 and China looks forward to the High-Level Conference of Middle-Income Countries to be hosted by the Philippines on 28-29 April 2025 in Manila, Philippines. The Conference aims to build on the Rabat Declaration on Middle-Income Countries towards the elaboration of a programme of action for Middle-Income Countries. We encourage UNIDO to continue to incorporate issues related to the specific needs of Middle-Income Countries in its work plan, in addition to its focus on the industrial development of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS.

Thank you, Madam President.

Item 13 - UNIDO Independent Oversight Advisory Committee

Thank you, Madam President,

1. The Group takes note of the Report of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee as contained in document IDB.52/22 and acknowledges with appreciation the work of the Committee.

2. The Committee has raised some important points on UNIDO's work including the following:

Reform and Restructuring

3. In view of OAC the reform process is progressing at a slow pace and has had some challenges. In this regard OAC has recommended that: (a) UNIDO should evaluate the reform process to assess the progress made thus far, identify gaps and determine if it is on track to achieve the overall objectives; and (b) Management should take steps to garner greater staff involvement in the process.

Technical Cooperation Delivery

4. OAC has expressed its concerns over sustainability of 25% per annum increase in TC delivery. The OAC believes that TC delivery must be linked to the actual implementation of projects and programmes, promoting development in Member States and that TC delivery should also be measured by qualitative targets, allowing for a better assessment of the development impact in Member States.

5. The Group notes that in 2023, funds mobilization for UNIDO's technical cooperation set a new milestone the technical cooperation delivery stood at value of \$225.2 million Moreover, the Organization increased its funds mobilization by 44 per cent, reaching a total of \$328.4 million. The Group supports the 25% increase in TC delivery and requests the Secretariat to formulate a comprehensive report outlining the details of plans and funding sources to address the concerns of the OAC on the issue.

Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)

6. In view of the ongoing reform process, OAC believes that UNIDO faces increased risks and challenges. The OAC has expressed its concern about the effectiveness of the Organization's ERM functions and has suggested that Management should take immediate steps to identify, manage and mitigate risks in a proactive manner and take immediate steps to have an updated risk register that includes all the key risks facing UNIDO.

Result-based Budgeting (RBB) and Full Cost Recovery (FCR)

7. The OAC has expressed its concerns on the slow pace of implementing the RBB method in formulating UNIDO's budget and has recommended that the management should clearly define and strengthen the results framework so that resources can be

determined to support the achievement of specific results. OAC further recommended that the management should fast-track the full implementation of FCR strategies and to develop a cost-accounting system to provide a mechanism to determine the actual cost in support of the FCR system.

8. OAC has also recommended that workplans of Evaluation and Internal Oversight (EIO) including internal audit, evaluation and investigation may be further enhanced and strengthened.

Madam President,

9. The Group expects the Director General and the Secretariat to take due cognisance of the issues and concerns raised in the report of OAC and implement the recommendations of OAC in an effective and efficient manner.

Thank you, Madam President.

Item 14 - Evaluation and internal oversight activities

Thank you, Madam President,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the reports presented by the Director of the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight, outlining the evaluation and oversight activities undertaken in 2023. We appreciate the role of the Office in enhancing UNIDO's accountability, transparency, and efficiency through independent evaluations, audits, and investigations that are essential for effective organizational governance.

2. We commend the efforts made by the Office to conduct nine strategic-level internal audits and issue 24 evaluation reports, which provided valuable insights into UNIDO's operations, including project management, procurement, and internal governance. These engagements contribute significantly to improving the effectiveness of UNIDO's processes and outcomes.

3. However, the Group notes that only 55–60% of the Management Action Plans (MAPs) resulting from internal audits have been fully implemented since 2019. We believe that timely implementation of MAPs is critical for addressing operational risks and achieving organizational goals. Therefore, we request the Director General to prioritize the completion of overdue MAPs and ensure regular follow-up mechanisms with senior management to address any barriers to timely implementation.

4. Additionally, we are concerned about the limitations faced by the Office due to budgetary and staffing constraints, which affect its capacity to cover all high-risk areas. In this regard, we urge the Director General to explore options for providing a sustainable

and predictable operational budget for the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight, including resources for travel, training, and IT systems, to strengthen its operational independence and ensure comprehensive oversight coverage.

5. The Group views positively the Office's proposal to create a pooled evaluation fund by integrating resources allocated for evaluations within project budgets. We believe this mechanism could enhance the sustainability of the evaluation function, allowing UNIDO to effectively measure and report on the impact of its initiatives. We request the Director General to report on the feasibility and potential implementation of this pooled funding mechanism at the next Board session.

6. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the critical findings raised in document the Assurance Review on UNIDO's Internal Governance Mechanisms, published on 5 November 2024, highlighting the need for immediate improvements in aligning the organization's purpose with its governance practices and daily operations. We note significant deficiencies in strategic direction, inter-divisional coordination, and clarity around the Director General's priorities, especially in key areas like clean energy, climate action, food security, and sustainable supply chains. We urge the Director General to establish a clear strategic framework, improve internal communication, and ensure that all governance bodies align with UNIDO's core mission and strategic objectives. We request regular updates on the progress of these corrective measures.

7. The Group is further concerned by governance issues affecting the Leadership Board (LB) and Operations Committee (OC), which have not consistently fulfilled their mandates, and gaps in the Delegation of Authority procedures that have led to ambiguities in accountability across various levels. The Group notes the management response annexed to the aforementioned document, including the commitment to further elaborate the needed measures, in particular through the ongoing formulation and update of management action plans, to address the findings and observations from this review. We also request additional periodic progress reports to ensure the implementation of the recommendations introduced by the External Auditor, the independent Oversight Advisory Committee and the Office of Evaluation and Internal Oversight.

Thank you, Madam President.

Item 15 - Personnel matters

Thank you, Madam President,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report provided by the Director General on personnel matters, which provides an overview of UNIDO's workforce composition, recent developments in recruitment, and ongoing initiatives for human

resource management. We recognize the importance of these efforts in enhancing UNIDO's organizational capacity and in supporting the effective delivery of its mandate.

2. We commend the progress made toward gender parity, with women now representing 45% of UNIDO's staff, particularly the increase in female representation, noting that further efforts are still needed for the professional and higher categories particularly from developing countries. We encourage the Director General to continue implementing targeted initiatives to achieve greater gender parity at all levels and upholding the principle of equitable geographical representation within the Organization. The Group requests the Director General to provide a progress report on this matter.

3. The Group also acknowledges the efforts to enhance recruitment policies and practices, including expanding eligibility criteria and streamlining procedures to attract a diverse pool of qualified candidates. We encourage the Director General to maintain momentum in modernizing recruitment processes, ensuring that UNIDO continues to attract top talent from a wide geographical base and further strengthens diversity across the Organization.

4. Additionally, we appreciate the progress in developing and implementing learning and development programs, which provide continuous professional growth opportunities for UNIDO staff. To build an agile and effective workforce, we request the Director General to continue prioritizing initiatives that promote a culture of continuous learning and to provide updates on the impact of these programs at the next IDB session.

5. Finally, we take note of the ongoing review of the staff contractual framework aimed at aligning UNIDO's practices with those of other UN organizations. We look forward to further details on this review and encourage the Director General to ensure that this alignment supports both the operational needs of the Organization and the well-being of its personnel.

Thank you, Madam President.



**Remarks by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia,
on behalf of the G-77 and China during the
UNIDO Global Alliance on Artificial Intelligence for
Industry and Manufacturing (AIM Global) Forum
12 December 2024**

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for the invitation to address you today on behalf of the Group of 77 and China at the UNIDO AIM Global Forum to address the theme “*AI for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future: Industry and Manufacturing Perspectives.*”

I would like to start my remarks by stressing the paramount importance of inclusive and sustainable industrialization for developing countries, as a critical source of economic growth, economic diversification, and value addition.

In this context, the Group appreciates UNIDO's essential support in technology sharing and transfer and knowledge dissemination, and in this regard, recognizes the key role of technology and the access to enhanced financial, technological, and technical support from developed countries to developing countries, as enabler for facilitating sustainable industrialization and modernization as well as for developing sustainable and resilient infrastructures in developing countries.

But, as the G-77 has consistently emphasized, technology must serve as a means to achieve broader well-being. It should help us tackle key development challenges in critical areas such as food and nutrition, water and sanitation, and energy. In these sectors, tools like Artificial Intelligence (AI) can enhance resource efficiency, improve service delivery, and support climate-resilient practices, leading to tangible improvements in the quality of life for our people.

The rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence is reshaping the global industrial and manufacturing landscape at an unprecedented pace. For developing countries, AI is not merely another technology— it represents a transformative opportunity to accelerate productive diversification, strengthen industrial capabilities, and foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Yet, to fully harness these benefits, we must also address the challenges arising from the adoption of this technology, ensuring that AI remains ethical, fair, and accessible to all.

As highlighted in G-77 statements and documents like the Kampala Summit Outcome Document there is an urgent need to close the technological divide —both between and within countries— ensuring affordable and reliable connectivity that especially benefits women, youth, and vulnerable communities. This is not solely about improving

infrastructure; it is about empowering entire populations to fully participate in the digital age, ensuring that AI serves as a transformative force rather than another layer of exclusion.

Achieving these goals will require substantial international cooperation, including from the UN system and international financial institutions, as well as the mobilization of new resources from developed countries. In this sense, the Group calls for enhanced technology and equipment transfer, capacity building, and technical assistance tailored to the priorities and needs of developing nations, and, again, UNIDO can continue to play a pivotal role as a catalyst and facilitator for this cooperation.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Technologies and AI in particular can offer a pathway to a more inclusive, sustainable, and innovative industrial future. Our task is to ensure that this pathway is accessible to all. Guided by the principles and priorities of the Group of 77 and China, and with the support of the international community, we can leverage the transformative power of AI to accelerate our collective journey towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Thank you very much.

The background features a large, light blue watermark of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) logo. The logo consists of a globe with latitude and longitude lines, and the number '77' is prominently displayed in the center of the globe.

77

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**



Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the informal meeting of the Programme and Budget Committee, 6 February 2024, delivered by H.E. Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khoker, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

Mr. Chairperson,

1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for issuing the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2025 contained in GOV/2024/1 and for the presentation provided today.
2. The Group reaffirms 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 takes note of the draft budget update for 2025 and is studying it carefully.
4. The Group notes that the draft budget update for 2025 proposes no changes to the Agency's programme for 2024-2025 biennium as approved in the Agency's Programme and Budget 2024-2025 (GC(67)/5) and that it represents zero real growth over 2024 with a 2.2% price adjustment in the regular budget.
5. 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 areas of human resources and travel costs.
6. The Group appreciates 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 compliance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the attainment of gender balance among the Agency's staff, in accordance with GC(67)/RES/17, and the participation of experts in the Agency's activities, and, in line with the aforementioned principle, to increase the number of staff members from developing countries which are unrepresented or under-represented in the Agency's Secretariat, particularly at the senior and policy-making levels.
7. 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.
8. The Group firmly believes that there should be a balance between promotional activities and non-promotional activities and emphasizes that the Secretariat should increase its focus on the key aspects of the promotional activities which serve the interest of the Member States. The Group stresses the need for sufficient, assured and predictable resources for the TC Programme in order to achieve the objectives of the Agency, as laid out in Article II of the Statute.
9. Concerning possible options for the ASHI liability funding mechanism, the Group notes the implementation by the Director General of a set of cost containment measures as described in his 2023 report on ASHI. The Group looks forward to further update from the Secretariat on this matter, including the development of long-term measures.
10. Finally, the Group will keep engaging constructively in the discussion of the draft budget update for 2025.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the March Board of Governors meeting
of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
4-8 March 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Agenda item 2: Nuclear and Radiation Safety: Nuclear Safety Review 2024

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group expresses its gratitude to the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Safety Review 2024, as contained in document GOV/2024/3. The Group also thanks the Director General for his introductory statement, as well as Deputy Director General Lydie Evrard for her remarks and for the technical briefing offered to Member States on 8 February 2024.

Mr. Chair,

2. The Group is pleased to note the Agency's continued assistance to Member States has led to progress in the area of nuclear safety in 2023. While reaffirming that the responsibility for nuclear safety within a State rests entirely with that Member State, the Group emphasizes the need to enhance international cooperation on all nuclear safety-related matters. In this regard, the Group reiterates 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.

3. In accordance with this belief, the Group welcomes the issuance of two General Safety Guides and fifteen Specific Safety Guides, the endorsement of four draft Safety Guides and the approval of eleven Safety Guides document preparation profiles for Safety standards in 2023.

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 reiterates the importance of the principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance, including the commitment to women empowerment in the Agency. In this regard, the Group emphasizes that the Agency should continue to support the participation of experts, including of the women, from developing countries, with a focus on gender mainstreaming, particularly in the Safety Standards Committees, the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee, as well as the Interface Group.

6. 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.

7. The Group expresses its appreciation for the issuance of Safety Report Exposure due to Radionuclides in Food other than during a Nuclear or Radiological Emergency (Part 1 and Part 3) and welcomes the growing awareness created through Agency webinars.
8. 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.
9. Recognizing that around thirty 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.
10. The Group emphasizes that capacity-building, including the development of human resources, expert training and the up-scaling of knowledge and capabilities are key to the establishment, as well as to the safety and sustainability of any nuclear program. The Group also notes that Member States continue to request support regarding their knowledge management and 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.
11. The Group highlights the importance of 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 process, including safety culture assessments. The Group further notes the Agency's activities aiming to assist Member States in their efforts to develop, foster and sustain safety culture.
12. 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 life cycle management. The Group encourages the Agency to continue to provide 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.
13. The Group appreciates that in 2023 the Agency conducted 55 peer review and advisory services across all aspects of nuclear safety 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.
14. In view also 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 notes 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 in the development and

deployment of this emerging nuclear power technology. In this regard, the Group welcomes the convening of a meeting of the SMRs Regulator's Forum, the conduct of four interregional Training Courses on Safety of SMRs and the continued implementation of the Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative (NHSI), which reflects Member States' interest in the harmonization of safety requirements and regulatory and licensing approaches as well as in the standardization of industrial approaches for SMRs.

15. The Group reiterates its concern, voiced at previous Board of Governors meetings, regarding the reference to applying a holistic or integrated approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs. In this regard, the Group notes with appreciation the consultations undertaken with the Secretariat on this matter, while taking into consideration various positions and respective legal commitments of Member States, and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the GC resolutions. The Group looks forward to further consultations on the matter.

16. 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. 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,

17. The Group notes that Member States continue to show increasing 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.

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

19. 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(67)/RES/7.

20. The Group notes that the Agency will continue monitoring and assessment activities at Fukushima Daiichi NPS related to the ongoing discharges of ALPS treated water. The Group appreciates the Secretariat to continue informing Member States of developments, as well as maintaining ongoing communication and conducting long-term comprehensive monitoring and assessment activities.

21. The Group notes that the number of published Emergency Preparedness and Response Information Management System (EPRIMS) self-assessment modules increased in 2023 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.

22. 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 establishment of a Denial of Shipment Working Group for the period 2023-2026 which should propose effective and sustainable solution to this issue.

23. The Group welcomes the growth in the number of Contracting Parties 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 welcomes the convening of the Joint 8th and 9th Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety held in March 2023 in Vienna.

Mr. Chair,

24. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Nuclear Safety Review 2024, as contained in document GOV/2024/3.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the March Board of Governors meeting
of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
4-8 March 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Agenda Item 3: Nuclear Security: Nuclear Security Review 2024

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 2024 as contained in document GOV/2024/4 and for the informal briefing provided on 8 February 2024.

2. The Group notes that the third edition of the Nuclear Security Review reflects the global trends in 2023 and presents planned Agency activities for 2024 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. In this connection, the Group recalls and encourages the Secretariat to implement the provisions of paragraph 21 of the 2023 General Conference Resolution - GC(67)/RES/8 – which requests the Secretariat to assess, in collaboration with Member States, the value and complementarity of the Nuclear Security Review with the Nuclear Security Report, while taking into account available resources, and to enhance its efforts in coordinating the Nuclear Security Review with the Nuclear Security Report and the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025;
- 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 at previous Board of Governors meetings, regarding the reference to applying a holistic or integrated approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs. In this regard, the Group notes with appreciation the consultations undertaken with the Secretariat on this matter, while taking into consideration various positions and respective legal commitments of Member States, and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the GC resolutions. The Group looks forward to further consultations on the matter.

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.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the March Board of Governors meeting
of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
4-8 March 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Agenda item 4: Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications: Nuclear Technology Review 2024

Mr. Chair,

1. 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.

2. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Technology Review 2024, contained in document GOV/2024/2. 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 8 February 2024.

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; addressing 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 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, equipment 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 detail in the report, including, inter alia, the

development of Small and Medium Sized Modular Reactors, advanced large Water Cooled Reactors, New Generations of Nuclear Power Plants, as well as various research reactors, other aspects of 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 equipment 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 and adaptation, 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 2023 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) recognizing that the role nuclear technology can play in both effectively mitigating and adapting to the increasingly severe consequences of the climate crisis. In this regard, the Group notes the events held by the Agency on the margins of the Conference advocating how nuclear energy could contribute significantly to climate change adaptation and mitigation in line with the Agency's updated Net Zero by 2050 road map. The Group further notes the Agency's engagement in high-level dialogue on nuclear energy and applications of nuclear techniques at COP28, and looks forward to its continued involvement at COP-29, to be held in Azerbaijan in 2024.

9. The Group notes that one Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) mission and one INIR follow-up mission were hosted in 2023. 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.

10. 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,

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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,

14. 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 Group appreciates the support already given by Member States to the ReNuAL and ReNuAL Plus projects, and as the project reached its final phase, ReNuAL 2, the Group appreciates the support provided by contributing Member States in the project

15. 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 (PACT) and the Rays of Hope initiative. 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.

16. The Group welcomes the five inaugural Anchor Centres established at the side event on Rays of Hope initiative held during the IAEA 67th General Conference. The Group highlights that four of these Anchor Centres are located in and administered by members of the Group, underscoring the increasing role played by developing countries in capacity building in this field. The Group also welcomes the Rays of Hope Forum held on 1-2 February 2024, which provided an update on the progress made under this initiative and the way forward and lessons learned in addressing cancer care challenges in Member States.

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 notes the launch of the IAEA/FAO joint initiative "Atoms4Food" aiming at supporting Member States in increasing Food and Nutrition security, and looks forward to the Secretariat's continued update on how to put this initiative forward. The Group takes note of the continuation of the works of the FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture and 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, through the use of radioisotopes and radiation technology.

Mr. Chair,

18. Recognizing the benefits and challenges of the 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.

19. The Group welcomes the progress in environmental Protection programmes, in particular the NUclear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) initiative. The Group appreciates that the IAEA is working closely with Member States in developing pilot scale plants for upcycling plastic waste into valuable products, including with those members of the Group who are leading progress to build technical scale prototypes in 2024.

20. The Group welcomes the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme to be held from 26 to 28 November 2024 in Vienna under the co-chairmanship of Ghana and Finland and looks forward to the consultations on its draft programme and its draft Ministerial Declaration planned for the near future.

21. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Nuclear Technology Review 2024, as contained in document GOV/2024/2.

Thank you, Mr Chair.



**Statement by the G-77 and China
during the 2nd Informal Open-Ended Consultations
on the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and
the Technical Cooperation Programme, 25 March 2024,
to be delivered by H.E. Ms. Laura Gil,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia**

I would like to deliver the following statement on behalf of the G-77 and China.

Co-Chairs,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank you for convening this Second Informal Open-Ended Consultations, as well as for the final version of the concept note submitted on 20 February 2024 on GovAtom and for today's presentations on progress made since the 2018 Ministerial Conference.
2. The Group recalls that the mandate leading to this Ministerial Conference was first raised and communicated by all Member States through the 2015 GC resolutions and reaffirmed in each of the successive following GC resolutions, including of 2023. The Group believes that the process and its substance should be guided in full by the principles and spirit of those resolutions.
3. The Group further recalls the Ministerial Conference held in 2018 which requested the Secretariat to organize a follow-up Conference in the coming years and takes note that the convening of this follow-up conference has been postponed twice due to the unprecedented restrictions posed by COVID-19.
4. The Group is confident that the ongoing process under the leadership of the Co-Chairs, the Ambassador of Finland, HE Ms Nina VASKUNLAHTI, and the Ambassador of Ghana, HE Mr Philbert ABAKA JOHNSON, will achieve the expected outcomes. The Group wishes to underscore that this should be a Member States-driven process. The Group welcomes efforts of the Co-Chairs thus far, and while it is noting the Conference's planned organization of work as highlighted today, the Group considers this plan to be a step in the right direction.
5. The Group is of the view that this Ministerial Conference should equally emphasize on nuclear science, technologies and applications for peaceful uses, centrally carried out by the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, as well as its delivery, done through the Department of Technical Cooperation, and therefore expects the continued joint collaboration of both Departments in organizing the Conference with the assistance of any other relevant departments.
6. The Group considers the Conference as a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the central role of the Agency in accordance with Article II of the Statute in the promotion of the inalienable right for peaceful uses of nuclear technology without discrimination.
7. On the suggested thematic sessions, the Group would like to provide the following preliminary views:

- a. The thematic sessions should address development of nuclear technologies and applications, with a focus on how knowledge and technologies are delivered to Member States through the TC Programme, particularly best practices, lessons learned and challenges faced in their delivery, and highlight their contribution to socio-economic development, including to the attainment of the SDGs.
- b. The Group is of the view that the Conference, in any relevant thematic session, should discuss the Agency's role in supporting the sharing of knowledge and the transfer of technology and the enhancement of capacity-building to developing countries, including through south-south and triangular cooperation and especially making use of their built-in capacity.
- c. Furthermore, the Group is of the view that discussions on the role of nuclear energy in meeting energy demands and their corresponding positive impact, particularly in ensuring energy security and climate change mitigation and adaptation, should be part of the relevant session.
- d. While the Group will consider the proposed sessions carefully, we welcome the support provided by the Agency to assist Member States to use nuclear science and technologies in climate change mitigation and adaptation. In this regard, the Group takes note of the proposal by the Co-Chairs to conduct a thematic session on climate change, given the cross cutting impact of this topic on the Agency's diverse areas of action, such as health and nutrition, food and agriculture and water and the environment.
- e. The Group welcomes the thematic sessions dedicated to Health and Food safety and security, areas of utmost importance for developing countries.
- f. The Group further strongly requests to add a separate thematic session on the TC Programme, which is of paramount importance for the Group as it is the main vehicle for the Agency's statutory function of the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries.

Co-chairs,

8. Regarding the outcome of the Conference, in accordance with the Vienna Spirit, the Group stresses the need for a concrete and consensual outcome document, with the aim of further strengthening the Agency's role in promoting applications of Nuclear Energy for peaceful uses, including their delivery to Member States through the Agency's TC Programme.
9. On the duration of the Conference, the Group would like to stress the importance of preserving a smooth transition from one session to another and to ensure that sufficient time is available to address all topics equally and in an effective manner.
10. In conclusion, the Group expects that the aforementioned views will be reflected in the structure and content of the thematic sessions and panels of the Conference and reiterates its readiness to engage constructively through the Informal Open-Ended Consultations in order to meet the aspirations of Member States for a successful Conference.

Thank you Co-Chairs.



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China
during the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC),
6-8 May 2024,
delivered by H. E. Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khokher,
Permanent Representative of Pakistan**

Agenda Item 2: Agency's Financial Statements for 2023, 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 22 April 2024.
2. With regard to the Financial Statements of the Agency for 2023 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 Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the professionalism in conducting the audit on the Agency's activities 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. While appreciating the extrabudgetary contributions that were made by Member States in a position to do so, the Group continues to caution against the 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 calls on all Member States to pay their contributions to the Regular Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund, on time and in full.
7. The Group also takes this opportunity to underscore the fact that TC activities continue to lack sufficient, assured and predictable resources and reiterates its request to the Secretariat to address this issue.
8. In this connection, the Group notes that the net assets of the TCF decreased by €17.8 million and the TC Extrabudgetary Fund increased by €17.6 million. The Group emphasizes that the reported evolution of the TCF net assets and the reported increase of the TC Extrabudgetary Fund demonstrate that resources for the TCF are still not sufficient, assured and predictable. 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.
9. The Group notes with concern the overall increase in the Agency's liabilities and in particular the €48.1 million increase concerning After Service Health Insurance, representing

50% of the total liabilities. 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.

Finally, Mr. Chair,

10. The Group encourages the Secretariat to implement the External Auditor's recommendations in a transparent manner and where feasible, to consult with Member States.

11. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Agency's Financial Statements for 2023, as contained in document GOV/2024/15 and document GOV/INF/2024/5.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China
during the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC),
6-8 May 2024,
delivered by H. E. Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khokher,
Permanent Representative of Pakistan**

Agenda Item 3: The 2023 Internal Audit, Management Services and Investigations Report and the 2023 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 2023 Internal Audit, Management Services and Investigations Report and the 2023 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 fulfil the responsibilities of the internal audit activities and the OIOS must confirm it to the Board of Governors at least annually.
3. The Group is of the view that the audit and evaluation activities carried out by the OIOS should cover all Major Programmes equally.
4. On the Country-Level Evaluations and Audits (CLEAs), the Group recalls that six CLEAs were carried out in Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Jamaica and Peru, , and reported on during the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC) in November 2023. The Group notes the findings, recommendations and cross-cutting conclusions that aim to facilitate long-term capacity-building and sustainability planning.

Mr. Chair,

5. While noting that all recommendations have been accepted by the Secretariat and are being implemented, the Group further requests the Secretariat to implement the earlier outstanding recommendations. The Group notes that according to OIOS Report, the Secretariat put forth a specific action plan in response to the recommendations made to further strengthen management of the execution of safeguards verification. The Group takes note of the identification of a number of areas for improvement around the validation of business continuity arrangements for external dependencies that may be involved in resumption activities, testing of continuity and disaster recovery plans, testing of emergency contact information for personnel and other critical stakeholders, and setting a mechanism for monitoring performance of the Organizational Resilience Management System at the Departmental level.
6. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the 2023 Internal Audit Activity Report, as contained in document GOV/2024/12, and the 2023 Programme Evaluation Report, contained in document GOV/2024/13.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China
during the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC),
6-8 May 2024,
delivered by H. E. Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khokher,
Permanent Representative of Pakistan**

Agenda item 5: The Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2025

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for issuing the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2025.

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 2025, as contained in document GOV/2024/1 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 2024-2025, as contained in document GOV/2023/32. The Group notes that the draft budget update for 2025 proposes no change to the Agency's programme for 2024-2025 biennium as approved in the Agency's Programme and Budget 2024-2025 (GC(67)/5) and that it represents zero real growth over 2024 with a 2.2% price adjustment in the regular budget. The Group further notes that the update envisages no changes to the Major Capital Investment Plan (MCIP).

4. The Group appreciates 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 compliance with the principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance, including the commitment to women empowerment among the Agency's staff, in accordance with GC(67)/RES/17, and the participation of experts in the Agency's activities, and, in line with the aforementioned principles, to increase the number of staff members from developing countries which are unrepresented or under-represented in the Agency's Secretariat, particularly at the senior and policy-making levels.

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 €98 000 000 for 2025. 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; and
- other relevant factors.

6. Bearing these factors in mind, the Group reiterates the call for the need to balance the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities and emphasizes that the Secretariat should increase its focus on the key aspects of the promotional activities which serve the interest of Member States. The Group stresses the need for sufficient, assured and predictable resources for the TC Programme in order to achieve the objectives of the Agency, as laid out in Article II of the Statute.

7. 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 2024-2025 will continue to be implemented in 2025. The Group requests that such measures should not negatively impact the delivery of the Technical Cooperation Programme or the participation of experts from developing countries in the Agency's activities.

8. Regarding possible options for the ASHI liability funding mechanism, the Group notes the increase of the calculated ASHI liability from €361 million in 2022 to €409 million in 2023, and underscores that the large unfunded ASHI balance continues to negatively impact the financial health of the Regular Budget. The Group further notes the implementation by the Director General of a set of cost containment measures in 2023 to stabilize the growing costs of ASHI and generate savings as described in his report on ASHI contained in document GOV/INF/2024/2. The Group looks forward to additional information from the Secretariat on the next steps to be undertaken towards reducing the ASHI liability and addressing its funding challenge, including through the development of long-term measures. The Group requests the Secretariat to keep Member States abreast of the matter.

9. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2025, as contained in document GOV/2024/1.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the IAEA June Board of Governors,
3-7 June 2024,
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Farhane Azzeddine,
Permanent Representative of Morocco**

Agenda item 2: The Annual Report for 2023

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 2023 as contained in document GOV/2024/11 and for the informal briefing provided on 14 May 2024.

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. 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 2023 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in which the Agency and its partners hosted 30 events at the Atoms4Climate pavilion, focusing on nuclear applications for energy, food, water and the oceans. This continued participation is helping to raise visibility for 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 COP29, to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024.

4. The Group welcomes the 2nd International Conference on Climate Change and the role of Nuclear Power 2023: Atoms4NetZero held in October 2023, in Vienna, which provided a Forum to exchange information on the role of nuclear power in the energy transitions towards net zero emissions.

5. 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 also values the support provided to Member States upon their request through the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions.

Mr. Chair,

6. 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.

7. The Group reiterates that there is a fundamental need to enhance the transfer of nuclear technology and equipment to and sharing of nuclear knowledge with developing countries and welcomes that Nuclear knowledge development remained an area of focus in 2023. As enhancement of capacity building and preservation of nuclear knowledge continue 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.

8. The Group attaches great value to Small 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 emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and takes note of the progress of work under the Agency's Platform on Small Modular Reactors and their Applications (SMR Platform) which has been serving as a focal point for the Agency's activities in this field and providing coordinated support and expertise from across the Agency.

Mr. Chair,

9. 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.

10. 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 and 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, based on their national priorities.

11. 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 emergency assistance to Member States, including during pandemics is a testament to the invaluable work that these laboratories continue to provide. The Group welcomes the completion of all major resource mobilization for ReNuAL2 and appreciates the support given by Member States to the ReNuAL and ReNuAL+and ReNuAL 2 projects. The Group looks forward to the complete implementation of the ReNuAL initiative, which should expand the Agency's capacities to help Member States address challenges in food and agriculture, human health and ecological and environmental protection.

12. 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 notes the Agency's efforts under the Zoonotic Diseases

Integrated Action (ZODIAC), including through the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, In this regard, the Group encourages the Secretariat to pursue efforts of mobilizing sufficient resources for the implementation of the project.

13. The Group notes the launch of the IAEA/FAO joint initiative “Atoms4Food” aiming at supporting Member States in increasing Food and Nutrition security, and looks forward to the Secretariat’s continued update on how to put this initiative forward. The Group takes note of the continuation of the works of the FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture and 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, through the use of radioisotopes and radiation technology.

14. The Group welcomes the continued work undertaken by the Agency in environmental protection, in particular the NUClear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) initiative and its impact to address challenges of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. The Group notes with appreciation activities undertaken by the Secretariat for the implementation of this initiative, and further highlights the leading role played by developing countries in the pilot phase of the programme tools. In this regard, the Group welcomes the progress in numerous pilot countries from its members, such as Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines aiming to build technical-scale prototypes in 2024.

15. In the field of human health, the Group welcomes the various activities of the Agency in the field of 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 reaffirms 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. The Group welcomes the five inaugural Anchor Centres established at the side event on Rays of Hope initiative held during the IAEA 67th General Conference. The Group highlights that four of these Anchor Centres are located in and administered by members of the Group, underscoring the increasing role played by developing countries in capacity building in this field.

16. 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.

17. 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,

18. The Group reiterates its appreciation for the IAEA's continuing efforts to promote nuclear safety worldwide and welcomes the diverse activities undertaken in 2023. 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.

19. 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, including through the issuance of publications in the Safety Guides series.

20. 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 2023 across all safety areas. In this regard, the Group also encourages the Agency to enhance the participation of experts from the developing countries in conducting such peer reviews and advisory services on a voluntary basis.

21. The Group notes the Agency's continued work in 2023 to contribute to global efforts in order 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.

22. 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.

23. The Group remains concerned regarding the reference to applying a holistic or integrated approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs, as it has been reflected in the Nuclear Security and Nuclear Safety Reviews. In this regard, the Group welcomes the consultations which the Secretariat is conducting in response to the request of Member States on these concepts, taking into consideration their various positions and legal commitments, and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the GC resolutions. The Group looks forward to further consultations on the matter.

24. The Group welcomes the opening of the Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre (NSTDC) in Seibersdorf. 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.

Technical Cooperation

Mr. Chair,

25. The Group believes that the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology and equipment for sustainable development 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.

26. 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.

27. 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. 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.

28. 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.

29. The Group welcomes the efforts made by the Agency to address the under-representation of women in the nuclear field, while recognizing the need to enhance capacity building. The Group further encourages the IAEA to continue offering training, internships and opportunities for career advancement to women and young professionals from developing countries in the nuclear field.

30. The Group calls upon the Secretariat to reflect, in further annual reports, any advancement accomplished regarding the application of the principle of equitable geographic representation within the Agency and its programmes, as highlighted in GC(67)/RES/17.

31. With these comments, the Group takes note of the Agency's Annual Report for 2023 contained in document GOV/2024/11.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the IAEA June Board of Governors,
3-7 June 2024,
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Laura Gil,
Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Agenda item 3: Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities Technical Cooperation Report for 2023

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation, Mr. Hua Liu, for his introductory remarks and for preparing the Technical Cooperation Report as well as the informal technical briefing provided on 14 May 2024.
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 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(67)/RES/9, 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,

4. 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.
5. The Group takes note of the continued efforts undertaken by the Secretariat in 2023 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.
6. 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.

7. 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,

8. The Group positively notes that the rate of attainment on payments to the TC Fund (TCF) for 2023, as of 31 December 2023, was 98.6%, which continued to progress and 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.

9. 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.

10. The Group remains concerned that the resources available to the TC Programme are still not sufficient, assured and predictable 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.

11. 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. The Group underscores, though, 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,

12. 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.

13. 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,

14. 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.

15. 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,

16. 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.

17. 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 as appropriate. Moreover, the Group supports the Agency's efforts to expand female participation from developing countries in the TC programme, including through encouraging Member States to nominate female NLOs, meeting and workshop participants, fellows and scientific visitors, and counterparts.

18. 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), the Rays of Hope initiative 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 Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), including in the conduct of imPACT reviews. The Group further welcomes the strengthening of existing partnerships with governments, the private sector and international financing institutions, including under the Rays of Hope initiative.

19. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Technical Cooperation Report for 2022 contained in document GOV/2024/24.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



Statement by the G-77 and China during the 3rd Informal Open-Ended Consultations on the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme, on 27th June 2024, to be delivered by H.E. Ambassador Laura Gil, Permanent Representative of Colombia

I would like to deliver the following statement on behalf of the G-77 and China.

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Co-chairs, HE Ms Nina VASKUNLAHTI, Ambassador of Finland and HE Mr Philbert ABAKA JOHNSON, Ambassador of Ghana, for convening this third Informal Open-Ended Consultations, as well as for the draft programme for the Conference, submitted on 11th June 2024 on GOVATOM, and for today's presentation.
2. The Group recalls its statement made during the 2nd Open Ended Informal Consultations held on 25th March 2024 and would like to thank the Co-Chairs, for incorporating the Group's views in the structure and content of the thematic sessions and panels of the Conference. The Group therefore believes that the draft programme provides a suitable basis for further discussion and is confident that the ongoing process under the leadership of the esteemed Co-Chairs, will achieve the expected outcomes.
3. The Group takes this opportunity to reaffirm its view that this Ministerial Conference should continue to equally emphasize on nuclear science, technologies and applications for peaceful uses (centrally carried out by the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications), as well as their delivery (done through the Department of Technical Cooperation), and therefore expects the continued joint collaboration of both Departments in consultation with Member States in organizing the Conference with the assistance of any other relevant departments.
4. Furthermore, the Group considers the Conference as a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the central role of the Agency to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world in accordance with article II of the Statute.
5. The Group notes with appreciation the thematic session on the TC Programme which is of paramount importance for the Group as it is the main vehicle for the Agency's statutory function of the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries. The Group looks forward to receiving the overall theme of the Conference.
6. Finally, the Group looks forward to the draft Ministerial Declaration to be submitted by the Co-chairs and, in this regard, would like to reiterate its readiness to engage constructively through, open, transparent and inclusive Informal Open-Ended Consultations, at the earliest possible convenience, in order to meet the aspirations of Member States for a consensual Ministerial Declaration and a successful Conference.

I thank you Co-Chairs.



**G-77 and China Statements during the IAEA Board of Governors,
9-13 September 2024, delivered by H.E. Ms. Ambassador Laura Gil,
Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Agenda Item 3: Programme Performance Report for 2022-2023

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of G-77 and China, would like to thank the Director General for his introductory statement and the Secretariat for preparing the Programme Performance Report 2022-2023, contained in document GOV/2024/36, 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 2023, had a utilization rate from 99.99% to 100%, demonstrating high usage of the funding provided. The Group further notes that the Agency met 98 of 107 target indicators, or 92%, at the programme level for 2022-2023, while eight are slightly below target and one is far below. The Group encourages the Secretariat to take further actions to improve this situation in the future, taking into account lessons learned and experience gained.
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 COP27 and COP28, 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 COP29 in Azerbaijan.
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, 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. The Group further notes the launch of the Atoms4Food initiative between the IAEA and FAO.

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 that the Agency completed the pilot phase of the IAEA Comprehensive Capacity-Building Initiative for SSACs and SRAs (COMPASS) in the seven participating States and that the experience gained through COMPASS was incorporated into the Agency's overall SSAC capacity-building programme while COMPASS will continue to be implemented by the Agency as part of the suite of assistance delivered to States.

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 Agency developed a pilot knowledge test and participant follow-up surveys to ensure better and more timely measurement of capacity building results. The Group further notes the Agency's continued contribution of the Ethics function 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 were 97.5 for both 2022 and 2023. The Group emphasizes the importance of the TCF in the implementation of the Technical Cooperation 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 reiterates that the TCP which should be based on the needs, evolving priorities, national ownership and national circumstances of Member States, is a shared responsibility and that its successful planning and implementation depends on the combined efforts of the TC Department, other relevant departments and Member States.

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. In full conformity and with the view to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals as contained in UNGA resolution A/RES/70/1, the Group takes note of the IAEA's activities in cross-cutting issues such as resource mobilization, building partnerships and gender equality and empowerment of women, as well as cross-cutting projects such as the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme, Rays of Hope, Atoms4Food, ZODIAC, and NUTEC Plastics.

11. The Group remains concerned over the asymmetry between the promotional and non-promotional 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 2022-2023 as contained in GOV/2024/36.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China Statements during the IAEA Board of Governors,
9-13 September 2024, delivered by H.E. Ms. Ambassador Laura Gil,
Permanent Representative of Colombia**

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/2024/40, pursuant to the General Conference resolutions GC(67) RES/10 and GC(66)/RES/9.

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. 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, as well as the activities aimed at supporting nuclear safety infrastructure development in Member States, upon their request

5. The Group appreciates, the continuation of the assistance provided by the Agency, to developing countries operating, expanding or embarking on nuclear power and radiation technology programmes in establishing or enhancing their national safety infrastructure, in particular the activities related to building competence in the regulatory functions, improving leadership and management for safety and promoting safety culture.

6. The Group remains concerned regarding the reference to applying a holistic or integrated approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs, as it has been reflected in the Nuclear Security and Nuclear Safety Reviews. In this regard, the Group welcomes the consultations which the Secretariat is conducting in response to the request of Member States on these concepts, taking into consideration their various positions and legal commitments, and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the GC resolutions. The Group looks forward to further consultations on the matter.

7. The Group welcomes the IAEA's commitments to provide long term monitoring and periodic review before, during and after the discharge of water including maintaining an onsite presence at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Mr. Chair,

8. 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 other events focused on strengthening collaboration among national authorities, specialists and international organizations. The Group requests the Secretariat to further pursue activities aimed at strengthening regional safety forums and related networks, as mandated by the General Conference.

9. 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.

10. 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 the continued efforts by the Agency to address problems related to denials of and delays in the shipment of radioactive material, particularly by air and urges Member States to facilitate the safe transport, and to identify, if they have not done so, a national focal point on denials of shipments to achieve a satisfactory and timely resolution of this issue.

11. The Group takes note of the Second and Third Meetings of the Denial of Shipment Working Group (DoS WG) held in Vienna in July 2023 and April 2024 respectively in order to discuss and focus on the progress achieved and future plans of the Working Group with the view to address issues related to denial of shipment of radioactive material.

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

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

Mr. Chair,

14. 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.

15. The Group appreciates the Agency's activities in the area of Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) and 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.

16. 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 standards for publication. The Group takes note of the meetings the Commission and the affiliated Committees held during the reporting period as well as 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.

17. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of document GOV/2024/34-GC(68)/10.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China Statements during the IAEA Board of Governors,
9-13 September 2024, delivered by H.E. Ms. Ambassador Laura Gil,
Permanent Representative of Colombia**

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 2024, as contained in document GOV/2024/35-GC(68)/7. The Group also expresses its thanks to Deputy Director General Lydie Evrard for her introductory remarks.
2. The Group reaffirms the principle that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State. The Group regrets that this important principle has not been reflected once again in the Nuclear Security Report in accordance with the Nuclear Security Resolutions despite the expression of strong concern by the Group. Therefore, the Group urges that this matter be rectified forthwith.
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 GC 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 Group appreciates the Agency's efforts by organizing or participating in a number of major meetings and coordination in response to the GC resolutions and requests the Secretariat to provide more information in its future Nuclear Security Reports.
7. The Group notes of the efforts of the Secretariat to distinguish between the Nuclear Security Report and the Nuclear Security Review and that this distinction and their respective utility will be further developed.

8. The Group appreciates the Agency's continued efforts to assist Member States, upon 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.

9. The Group remains concerned regarding the reference to applying a holistic or integrated approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs, as it has been reflected in the Nuclear Security and Nuclear Safety Reviews. In this regard, the Group welcomes the consultations which the Secretariat is conducting in response to the request of Member States on these concepts, taking into consideration their various positions and legal commitments, and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the GC resolutions. The Group looks forward to further consultations on the matter.

10. The Group welcomes the voluntary reporting of Member States to the Agency's Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) and notes that the Agency does not have the mandate or capability to verify such reporting.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. The Group notes the continued efforts of the Secretariat to develop and implement Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs) to assist Member States, upon request, in applying a structured and comprehensive 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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).

17. The Group notes that during the reporting period, the Agency continued its training and train-the-trainers programmes, which resulted in 3051 users who completed 5177 e-learning modules and the implementation of 138 nuclear security training events. The Group encourages the Secretariat to further enhance its activities oriented at capacity-building in Member States, particularly developing countries.

18. 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 and 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.

19. The Group takes note of informal technical briefings by the Secretariat on the progress related to the Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre (NSTDC) and welcomes its inauguration in October 2023. The Group underscores the need to maximize the potential benefits of this centre, while emphasizing its complementarity with the activities of the Nuclear Security Support Centres (NSSCs) in Member States. The Group 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.

20. The Group requests the Secretariat to avoid the use of ambiguous language in its reports, taking into account views of Member States.

21. The Group notes the Agency's main goals and priorities concerning nuclear security for 2024 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. The Group encourages the Secretariat to develop the next Nuclear Security Plan 2026-2029 in an inclusive and transparent manner, in close consultation with Member States, with the aim of aligning it with their expressed priorities and needs.

22. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Nuclear Security Report 2024.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China Statement during the IAEA Board of Governors,
9-13 September 2024, delivered by H.E. Ms. Ambassador Angela Mariana Vigliotta Mella,
Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic**

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/2024/34 - GC(68)/10, in response to General Conference resolutions GC(67)/RES/10 and GC(66)/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 those in a position to do so, to continue providing such support.
3. On Annex 1, related to the 'General' part of the non-power nuclear applications, the Group welcomes the convening of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme, to be held on 26-28 November 2024 in Vienna and encourages Member States to participate at the Ministerial Level.
4. 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.
5. The Group appreciates the Secretariat's continued efforts in the implementation of the Rays of Hope initiative. The Group further welcomes the designation of nine Anchor Centres, including six from the Group, towards improving access to cancer diagnosis, treatment and care for all. The Group encourages the Secretariat's efforts in coordinating with Member States to identify and establish additional Anchor Centres.

6. On Annex 2, related to “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 encourages Member States to contribute additional funds in order to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

7. On Annex 3, related to “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 appreciates the Agency’s securing of extrabudgetary funds for this important area. The Groupe welcomes the launch of the Atoms4Food initiative between IAEA and FAO which seeks to provide countries with ground-breaking solutions tailored to their specific needs and circumstances on Food security.

8. On Annex 4, on 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.

9. On Annex 5, 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.

10. On Annex 6, 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, in mobilizing resources from traditional and nontraditional donors. The Group takes positive note of the successful conclusion of resource mobilization made to the

ReNuAL 2, so as to ensure that the laboratories are fit-for-purpose and can meet the needs of Member States, well into future.

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 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 takes positive note of the first meeting of the ZODIAC Ad-Hoc Scientific Panel (ZOSP) in January 2023.

12. 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.

13. The Group takes note of the Secretariat’s NUTEC Plastics initiative, which aims at assisting Member States in harnessing nuclear and isotopic techniques to address the global challenges related to plastic pollution. The Group underscores the leading role played by developing countries in the various phases of the Programme, 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,

14. The Group believes that nuclear energy will make an increasing contribution to the sustainable development of humankind throughout the 21st century and beyond and further notes its role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring a reliable source of energy, and its contribution to addressing climate change issues and to achieving the SDGs. 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 2023 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) 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 COP29.

15. The Group notes with appreciation the efforts 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. The Group also highlights the work done by the Secretariat in providing guidance and capacity building in managing the nuclear fuel cycle, and radioactive waste, as well as enhancing the different aspects 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.

16. 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.

17. The Group notes the last International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century which took place in the United States of America in October 2022. 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.

18. On Annex 11 “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). The Group welcomes the growing number of its members in INPRO, and notes with appreciation the developing of multiple collaborative projects and CRPs in the framework of INPRO, while reiterating its call for continued support from the Regular Budget.

19. On Annex 13, “Small and Medium-sized or Modular Reactors”, 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 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.

20. The Group reiterates its support for the initiative titled “Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP)” aimed at increasing the number of women in the nuclear field supporting an inclusive workforce of both men and women, raising the overall participation of women and the Lisa Meitner Program aimed at boosting women’s career development in the nuclear sector. The Group reaffirms its commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and welcomes the Secretariat’s efforts, taking into consideration the Sustainable Development Goals as contained in UNGA A/RES/70/1. Finally, the Group requests the inclusion of equitable geographical representation as selection criteria in those programs.

Mr. Chair,

21. 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.

22. With these comments, the Group takes note of document GOV/2024/34 - GC(68)/10.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China Statement during
the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee,
18 November 2024, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Laura Gil,
Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Agenda Item 2: Technical Cooperation, The Agency's Proposed Programme for 2025

1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the Agency's Proposed Technical Cooperation Program for 2025, as contained in documents GOV/2024/58 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 October 23rd. 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 Program (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 TCP plays an important role for the sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries and contributes towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, the Group stresses the role of the IAEA TCP as a major mechanism in transferring and access to nuclear technology, materials, equipment and expertise to Member States for peaceful purposes.

3. The Group also reiterates that the TCP is a shared responsibility and the result of the combined efforts between the IAEA technical Departments and the Member States. 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 (m) of Resolution GC(68)/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 2025 is € 98 million, as per the recommendation submitted to the Board of Governors (GOV/2023/32). 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 € 94 623 777 to the Board for approval. The Group emphasises 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 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.

5. The Group reiterates its view that the resources available for the TCP 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 increasing needs of the developing countries and the unmet demands in this regard, 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.

6. The Group notes that the total Footnote-a/Activities amount to over €59.1 million in 2025. These figures show that the current level of resources available falls short of the resources needed. The significant increase in the proposed funding of the Footnote-a/Activities for 2025 indicates an urgent need to increase the TCF targets for the upcoming years in order to meet the increasing demands of Member States. The Group further stresses the importance of maintaining an adequate balance between the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities. The Group calls upon Member States in a position to do so to provide extra budgetary contributions for the TCP for the benefit of developing countries and to address the funding gap therein.

7. The Group also welcomes the decision taken by the 68th Session of the General Conference, as mandated in GC(68)/RES/10 on convening the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme to be held on 26-28 November 2024, and encouraging Member States to participate at ministerial level. In this regard, the Group appreciates the consultations with Member States undertaken by the Co-Chairs, the Ambassadors of Ghana and Finland, in preparation for the Conference, including on the draft Declaration.

8. The Group looks forward to the active participation of the IAEA in the upcoming United Nations 2024 Climate Change Conference (COP29). The Group takes positive note of the efforts of the Agency in promoting peaceful uses of atomic energy as a means to help mitigate and adapt to climate change.

9. The Group reaffirms the principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance including the commitment to women empowerment, and appreciates the important steps taken to enhance the representation of women in the Secretariat. The Group reiterates that these principles should be reflected in all the Technical Cooperation activities of the IAEA. The Group

expresses its concern on the significant under-representation of developing countries in the Secretariat which needs to be addressed properly, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution. The Group continues to request the Secretariat to significantly improve equitable geographical distribution and gender balance within the Agency at all levels of responsibility.

Mr. Chair,

10. 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 program as contained in document GOV/2024/58 and requests that its views and comments be duly reflected in the official records of the TACC meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Agenda item 3: Evaluation of technical cooperation activities in 2024

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 2024, as contained in document GOV/2024/59. The Group also thanks the OIOS for the technical briefing provided on 22nd October 2024.

2. The Group continues to attach great importance to the work of the OIOS to strengthen the Agency's ability to ensure management efficiency and programme effectiveness, and to enhance accountability. The Group also takes note of the evaluation results of the three Regional Country-level Evaluation and Audit (CLEA-R) undertaken in 2024, with the intention of helping to strengthen the management of TC activities through systematic solutions.

3. The Group takes note of the two TC related oversight assignments finalized during 2024: the CLEA-R of the Agency's Work in Africa and the Evaluation of the Regional and Interregional Projects of the Agency's TCP.

4. The Group notes that the overall cost of these two OIOS activities amounted to €657,197, compared with €700,871 for the OIOS activities that were reported to the TACC in 2023. 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 notes that the CLEA-R exercise for 2024 combined audit and evaluation methodologies to provide a comprehensive assessment of the Agency's performance and facilitate a more efficient and effective comparative study. The Group further notes that OIOS adopted a revised methodology with a focus on the Agency's work in three areas relating to food and agriculture, including consideration of the context of the Atoms4Food initiative.

7. The Group acknowledges the importance of this year's evaluation focusing on Africa and takes further note of the finding that the IAEA should focus on scaling-up, dissemination and greater visibility of its work on food and agriculture in Africa. In terms of methodology, the Group looks forward for a comprehensive evaluation of all TC projects in future OIOS reports. An evaluation of the efficiency and adequacy of TC projects, based on a results-oriented approach, which would provide valuable insights into their impact and areas for improvement and help ensure that the delivery of nuclear science and technology applications aligns effectively with the specific needs of Member States.

8. The Group takes note that OIOS identified 116 national projects and 11 regional TC projects that fell within the scope of the 3 thematic areas and were active between 2018 and 2024 covering all African subregions and total expenditure of over €40 million across the three biennia from 2018.

9. The Group also takes note that OIOS conducted a number of field missions as part of the CLEA-R and that its team observed three coordination meetings relating to regional projects in food and agriculture, as well as other relevant meetings and events.

10. The Group notes that the OIOS completed the Evaluation of the Regional and Interregional Projects of the Agency's TCP commenced in mid-2023, which comprise 579 national, regional and interregional TC projects. The Group also notes that the CLEA-R concluded that the scientific knowledge creation and transfer of nuclear technologies in food safety, mutation breeding and insect pest control are highly effective through productive research collaborations and joint publications with a wide reach.

11. Furthermore, the Group notes that the Report on the Regional Country-level Evaluation and Audit of the Agency's Work in Africa emphasizes nine CLEA-R recommendations to be implemented by the Secretariat. The Group also notes that the Report on Evaluation of the Regional and Interregional Projects of the Agency's TCP underscores seven recommendations to be implemented by the Secretariat. In this regard, the Group highlights the recommendations to strengthen the alignment of regional and interregional projects with national development objectives and the SDGs as well as the improvement of country level coordination between

regional projects sponsored by regional cooperative agreements and TC projects outside agreements.

12. The Group appreciates that the Secretariat agrees timescales for the implementation of actions to address the accepted recommendations made by evaluations and looks forward to reporting on their implementation.

13. The Group notes that 7 Programme Evaluation Recommendations and 28 Internal Audit Recommendations are overdue this year. The Group notes with appreciation that there are now no recommendations open from audit reports issued before 2018, and the number of open recommendations from reports issued between 2018 and 2022 has further decreased from 55 in February 2024 to 31 in August 2024. However, it is pertinent to note that the overdue recommendations for both the Programme Evaluation and Internal Audit are not sufficiently 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,

14. The Group takes note of the key cross-cutting findings and recommendations highlighted in the synthesis report. In particular, the Group notes that the CLEA-R identified systematic delays in the implementation of national and regional projects compared to the planned timelines, while stressing that procurement timelines are the leading cause of these delays. Every measure in order to enhance effectiveness of the TCP is welcome. In this regard, the Group looks attentively to the continued implementation of the PCMF+, urges that the comments made in the report are taken into consideration, and looks forward to the results of the related management tools.

15. The Group reaffirms the principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance including the commitment to women empowerment, and appreciates the important steps taken to enhance the representation of women in the Secretariat. The Group reiterates that these principles should be reflected in all the Technical Cooperation activities of the IAEA. The Group expresses its concern on the significant under-representation of developing countries in the Secretariat which needs to be addressed properly, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution. The Group continues to request the Secretariat to significantly improve equitable geographical distribution and gender balance within the Agency at all levels of responsibility.

16. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Evaluation of Technical Cooperation Activities in 2024, as contained in document GOV/2024/59, and requests that its views and comments be duly reflected in the official records of the TACC meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



77

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON
DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China
during the High-Level Segment of the 67th session
of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna, 14-15 March 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China extends its warm congratulation to H.E. Ambassador Philbert Johnson on his election as the Chair of the 67th 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 supports 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 reiterates its commitment to continue working with her to address and counter the world drug problem.

3. The Group would like to express its appreciation for the commendable efforts of the Chairperson and the Secretariat for the preparation and organization of this session.

4. The Group of 77 and China welcomes the convening of the High-Level Segment of the Commission and expresses its support for the “High-Level Declaration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the 2024 Mid-Term Review, following up to the 2019 Ministerial Declaration” agreed by Member States. The Group views this as a positive step forward and an important reaffirmation of our joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem. In this regard, the Group would like to express its appreciation for the commendable work carried out by the Facilitator of the negotiation process Ambassador Philbert Johnson, Permanent Representative of Ghana, under whose able leadership a consensus was reached on this important High-Level Declaration.

5. The Group also takes positive note of all initiatives and efforts of its Member States, which contribute to the work of the Commission, including, inter alia, through tabling resolutions.

Mr. Chair,

6. 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 sub regional, 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, public security, safety and wellbeing of all humanity.

7. The Group is concerned that, despite the significant efforts made by Member States the challenges posed by the world drug problem persist and continue to evolve and stresses the need for the international community to increase their efforts to effectively address and counter them based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.



8. 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, in an open, transparent and equitable way, to allow them to have sufficient resources to address and counter the world drug problem.

9. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and to avoid promulgating and imposing any unilateral coercive 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.

10. The Group underscores the important role played by all relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement, judicial and health-care personnel, civil society, the scientific community and academia, as well as the private sector, supporting our efforts to implement our joint commitments at all levels, and underscore the importance of promoting relevant partnerships.

11. 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.

12. The Group reaffirms its 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.

13. The Group reiterates that efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to effectively address the world drug problem are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Mr. Chair,

14. The Group reaffirms its commitment to prevent, reduce and eliminate illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing, trafficking, of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, 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 and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse.

15. The Group notes with great concern the persistent disparities on progress made in ensuring the access, availability and affordability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, particularly for pain relief and palliative care. In this regard, the Group urges all Member States to take concrete actions to ensure access, availability and affordability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and remove any imposed barriers.



16. The Group acknowledges that drug use disorders pose multifaceted challenges that should be addressed effectively through, inter alia, treatment, health care, rehabilitation and recovery.

17. The Group notes with great concern that the demand for treating drug-related disorders remains largely unmet, and that especially people who use drugs are still disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS and other bloodborne infections.

18. The Group recalls also the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and recognizing the importance of promoting sustainable and viable livelihoods for the Indigenous Peoples and local communities affected by or vulnerable to the illicit cultivation of crops used for the illicit production and manufacture of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

19. The Group recognizes the importance of increased efforts to promote viable domestic economic alternatives to the illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing, and trafficking of drugs, including, through long-term comprehensive, inclusive and sustainable alternative development programs and development-oriented interventions and initiatives that benefit all and in particular those local communities and regions affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the illicit manufacture and production of and trafficking in drugs, as well as other illicit drug-related activities in urban and rural areas.

20. The Group notes the negative impact of transnational criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking on public security, human dignity, safety and wellbeing of societies, and their role in the surge of violence in some regions, and stresses the need to embrace a comprehensive approach aimed at addressing and countering the expansion of such activities.

21. The Group acknowledges that the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially developing countries, have made important contributions to and sacrifices in countering illicit drug trafficking and preventing illicitly trafficked substances from reaching end markets, and emphasizes the need to provide concrete, sufficient and sustainable technical and capacity building support to the States most affected by the transit of drugs, especially the developing countries among them, in their efforts to curb illicit drug trafficking and deal with associated challenges.

22. The Group remains committed to implementing the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, to addressing the 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, and welcomes its Midterm Review at the High Level Segment of the 67th session of the CND to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of all international drug policy commitments and to outline the way forward to 2029.

23. The Group expresses concern regarding the increasing threats caused by synthetic drugs and their impact on the illicit drug market, and urges all Member States to take concrete actions to tackle this issue as one of the priorities within our efforts to address and counter the world drug problem.



24. The Group recognizes that illicit drug-related activities can affect the environment and local communities and acknowledges the need to address these adverse effects and their root causes.

25. The Group emphasizes the need for continuous support from UNODC to Member States upon their request to support and 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.

26. The Group recognizes that there are persistent, new and evolving challenges that should be addressed with ambitious, effective, improved and decisive actions, including where appropriate, innovative measures in conformity with the three international drug control conventions.

27. In this regard, the Group also recognizes that the three international drug control conventions 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,

28. The Group reaffirms our commitment based on the principle of common and shared responsibility to implement tangible and efficient measures, within our respective means, to counter criminal organizations involved in illicit drug trafficking, and to address the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, and we express our resolve to strengthen sub-regional, regional and international cooperation in this regard.

29. 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.

30. 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.

31. The Group expresses its serious concern on the implementation of the principle of equitable geographical representation and low level of representation of developing countries in the UNODC. The Groups requests the Secretariat to submit a report to the 68th Session of the CND on implementation of this principle, the achievements made so far and the proposals to improve the current representation of Member States in the UNODC Secretariat.

32. The Group of 77 and China emphasizes the need for the international community, in particular developed countries by providing means of implementation, to accelerate and improve 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 THIRTY THIRD SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL
JUSTICE, 13 TO 17 MAY 2024
DELIVERED BY H.E. MS. LAURA GIL,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF COLOMBIA**

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the 33rd 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. The Group also extends its thanks to the Secretariat for the excellent work done in preparation of this session.
3. The Group also appreciates all initiatives and efforts of its Member States, which contribute to the work of the Commission, including, inter alia, through tabling resolutions.
4. The Group reaffirms its commitment towards the objectives set forth by the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including by supporting the holding of the Commission's intersessional thematic discussion, and call 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 and material assistance, equipment and transfer of technology.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Group expresses deep concern about the negative impact of crime on the rule of law, all human rights, socioeconomic development, public health and security, the environment and cultural heritage.
6. The Group also expresses deep concern that crime is becoming increasingly transnational, organized and complex and that criminals are increasingly exploiting new and emerging technologies including the Internet, to carry out their illicit activities, thus creating unprecedented challenges in preventing and combating existing crimes, as well as new and emerging forms of crime.
7. The Group reaffirms the need to enhance bilateral, regional, subregional and international cooperation in criminal matters aimed at preventing and combating transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including issues related to extradition and mutual legal assistance, and call upon Member States to adopt practical approaches that would facilitate such cooperation.
8. The Group reiterates its 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, maintaining and imposing any measures and actions, including sanctions and restrictions, on developing countries that are in contravention of 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.

9. The Group recalls its commitment to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through our efforts in crime prevention and criminal justice, with the firm recognition that sustainable development and the rule of law are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, that crime is an impediment to sustainable development and that achieving sustainable development is an enabling factor for States to effectively prevent and combat crime.

10. The Group emphasizes the right of equal access to justice for all, particularly persons in vulnerable situations, and the importance of awareness-raising concerning legal rights, and in this regard the Group commits to taking all necessary steps to provide fair, transparent, effective, non-discriminatory and accountable services that promote access to justice for all, including legal aid.

11. The Group takes note of the outcome documents of the 10th session of the COSP UNCAC and the progress made in the implementation of the Convention, including through its Implementation Review Mechanism. The Group reaffirms its commitment to the Political Declaration adopted during the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Corruption in June 2021 and looks forward for its proper follow-up within UNCAC's subsidiary bodies.

12. The Group urges all UNCAC States Parties to impose a system-wide zero-tolerance policy against corrupt practices and highlights the necessity to take urgent measures to prevent, prosecute and deter all forms of corruption, to strengthen international cooperation to effectively prevent and counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows and enhance measures for the identification, tracing, freezing, seizure, return of assets 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, also with a view to strengthening international cooperation to facilitate the return of persons sought for corruption offences.

13. The Group recognizes the role of the Global Operational Network of Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE) in facilitating transnational cooperation on corruption cases, highlights the achievement made by GlobE, that 202 authorities from 113 countries have joined the Network by the end of April 2024, and encourages State Parties to join the network.

14. The Group deeply regrets 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.

15. The Group urges Member States to criminalize all forms of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, including child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse online, to grant authority to law enforcement agencies and to provide appropriate tools to identify victims

and effectively combat child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and bring perpetrators to justice.

16. The Group welcomes the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, within the framework of the United Nations, under the able leadership of the Chair Ambassador Mebarki of Algeria and the assistance of the Secretariat and the Group reaffirms its commitment to engage constructively and in good faith with all delegations in the reconvened concluding session of the Ad Hoc Committee. The Group remains optimistic that the Ad Hoc Committee will be able to submit to the General Assembly at its 78th session a comprehensive and balanced draft convention that addresses the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries.

17. The Group attaches 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.

18. The Group expresses concern over the constant violation of the rights of migrants and urge 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.

19. The Group reaffirms its 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.

20. The Group acknowledges 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 reaffirms 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.

21. The Group emphasizes the primary role and responsibility of States and Governments for defining crime prevention strategies and policies.

22. The Group encourages multidisciplinary efforts to prevent and combat crime through cooperation and coordination between law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions, and other governmental sectors, as well as to support their work, by engaging in and fostering, in accordance with domestic law, partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

23. The Group emphasizes the importance of promoting, facilitating and supporting the widest measures of technical assistance, transfer of technology, financial assistance, material support and training, with a view to enabling law enforcement authorities and criminal justice institutions to effectively prevent and combat crimes, taking into account the specific challenges faced by and the particular needs of developing countries.

24. The Group strongly reaffirms the responsibility of all States to fully promote and protect all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and fundamental

freedoms, as well as to uphold the principle of human dignity, in the impartial administration of justice and throughout all our efforts in preventing and combating crime.

25. The Group undertakes to mainstream a gender perspective into the criminal justice system to address the gender-specific needs of both offenders and victims, and to protect women and girls from revictimization in criminal justice proceedings.

26. The Group calls upon Member States to address the needs and protect the rights of children and youth, with due consideration to their vulnerabilities, to ensure their protection from all forms of crime, violence, abuse and exploitation, both online and offline, such as sexual abuse and exploitation of children and trafficking in persons, noting the particular vulnerabilities of children in the context of smuggling of migrants, as well as recruitment by organized criminal groups including gangs, as well as by terrorist groups.

27. We reiterate the importance of the use and application of the United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, namely the Bangkok Rules, the Nelson Mandela Rules, as well as the Beijing Rules, in support of effective, fair, humane, and accountable criminal justice systems, especially for women and children.

28. The Group deplores the rise of hate crimes around the world and in this regard underline the importance of respect for the diversity of religions and beliefs as well as ethnic and cultural diversity, and call for all States to undertake necessary measures to promote a culture of tolerance and respect among societies and nations based on the principles of the international law.

29. The Group expresses its deep 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.

30. The Group expresses its concern regarding the crimes that affect the environment and underscores 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.

31. The Group underscores the need to better understand and enhance its efforts, in accordance with each Member's national law, against the smuggling of commercial goods.

32. On the issue of preventing and combatting of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, 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. 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.

33. The Group emphasizes that 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 importance of transparency, regular dialogue and close consultations between all Member States and UNODC regarding the ongoing and planned publications and research activities at all stages. In this regard, the Group stresses the

importance that the publications of UNODC shall be impartial and respect the cultural diversity of Member States.

34. The Group reiterates that UNODC needs adequate and sustainable resources to allow it to effectively implement an increasingly complex mandate. Therefore, the Group urges all States to increase their unearmarked contributions, specifically to the General Purpose Fund of UNODC.

35. Finally, the Group expresses its deep concern that developing countries are still underrepresented in the staff of UNODC and urges the Executive Director to intensify the efforts to ensure that adequate, proper, geographically equitable and gender-balanced distribution are fully realized, as the principles of 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. In this context, the Group requests the Executive Director to continue providing comprehensive, disaggregated and detailed information through the reporting entitlements and in the context FINGOV meetings in this regard.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



G-77 and China Statement during the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 12th session, 14-18 October 2024, delivered by H.E. Ms. Laura Gil, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia

Mr. President,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, it is my pleasure to express our sincere congratulations, on your election as the President of the 12th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Congratulations that I extend to the members of the Bureau for their election.
2. The Group would like to take this opportunity to thank Iraq, another member of our Group, particularly, H.E. Ambassador Hussien and his team for their leadership and commitment during the Conference for the past two years.
3. The Group wishes to thank the Secretariat as well, for the organization and preparation for this session of the Conference.

Mr. President,

4. The Group expresses deep concern about the negative impact of crime on the rule of law, all human rights, socioeconomic development, public health and security, the environment and cultural heritage.
5. The Group also expresses deep concern that crime is becoming increasingly transnational, organized and complex and that criminals are increasingly exploiting new and emerging technologies including the Internet, to carry out their illicit activities, thus creating unprecedented challenges in preventing and combating existing crimes, as well as new and emerging forms of crime, which require effective and tangible actions at the national, regional and multilateral levels, bearing in mind the common and shared responsibility of all States in preventing and combating these crimes.
6. The Group reaffirms the preeminent role of United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols, as applicable, as the corner stone of the international legal framework in the fight against transnational organized crime and recalls that since its adoption the Group has focused their efforts in promoting its full, balanced and effective implementation, in line with its principles, goals and spirit.
7. The Group highlights the importance of promoting ratifications of the UNTOC and its Protocols thereto, which will allow Member States to strengthen and facilitate effective international cooperation and technical assistance in preventing and combatting transnational organized crime.
8. The Group also underlines the importance of conducting the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Convention in a timely manner and in accordance with its Guiding Principles as set out in the Annex of resolution 9/1, underscores the need to address the challenges in that regard identified during the working group meetings and invites the timely nomination of focal points for Parties that have not done so, and their effective engagement, as well as to encourage the participation of women in the review mechanism process.

Mr. President,

9. The Group highlights the significant work of the open-ended intergovernmental Working Groups on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants, Firearms, Technical Assistance, and International Cooperation, and appreciates their continuous contributions to the Conference. We encourage Member States, in a position to do so, to provide voluntary extra-budgetary financial contributions to ensure funding to enable the participation of experts from developing countries in the working groups.

10. The Group takes note of the contribution of the constructive dialogues conducted after the intergovernmental Working Groups meetings in accordance with the procedures and rules of the functioning of the mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, including that no specific country situation shall be mentioned during the constructive dialogues except by the country under review.

11. The Group considers that efforts to counter all forms of transnational organized crime should be comprehensive and integrated, considering the dimensions of prevention and effective law enforcement, including adequate assistance to the victims, within their means, particularly to women, children, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities, where appropriate, and with full respect for the rule of law and the promotion and protection of all human rights.

12. The Group undertakes to continue mainstreaming a gender perspective into their efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime and effectively implement the Convention.

13. The Group emphasizes that 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 importance of transparency, regular dialogue and close consultations between all Member States and UNODC regarding the ongoing and planned publications and research activities at all stages. In this regard, the Group stresses the importance that the publications of UNODC shall be impartial and respect the cultural diversity of Member States.

Mr. President,

14. The Group commends the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, carried out under the Chairmanship of Algeria, welcomes the submission by the Ad Hoc Committee of the "*United Nations Convention against Cybercrime; Strengthening International Cooperation for Combating Certain Crimes Committed by Means of Information and Communications Technology Systems and for the Sharing of Evidence in Electronic Form of Serious Crimes*" to the UNGA for its consideration, and expresses deep appreciation for the able leadership of the Ad Hoc Committee Chair H.E. Ambassador Faouzia Mebarki, as well as for the valuable contribution of the members of the Bureau and the facilitators from the developing countries. In this regard, the Group wishes to highlight its committed engagement during the negotiation as the voice of the Global South.

Mr. President,

15. 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.

16. In this regard, the Group stresses the need to enhance efforts to combat this crime and to implement, in accordance with domestic legal frameworks, 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.

17. The Group expresses its concern regarding the crimes that affect the environment and underscores 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.

18. The Group underscores the need to better understand and enhance its efforts, in accordance with each Member's national law, against the smuggling of commercial goods.

19. The Group acknowledges the increasing links between transnational organized crime and other crimes, such as, drug-related crime, corruption, money laundering and illicit financial flows, terrorism and its 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.

20. On the particular issue of preventing and combatting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and in order to face this challenge, 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 counter-terrorism legal instruments, as well as of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy.

21. 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.

Mr. President,

22. The Group reiterates its 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, maintaining and imposing any unilateral coercive measures and actions, including sanctions and restrictions, on developing countries that are in contravention of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities on preventing and combatting transnational organized crime.

23. The Group encourages multidisciplinary efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime through cooperation and coordination between law enforcement and other criminal justice institutions, and other governmental sectors, as well as to support their work, by engaging in and fostering, in accordance with domestic law, partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

24. 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.

25. The Group firmly believes that adequate, long-term, sustainable, effective and demand-driven technical and material assistance, transfer of technology and provision of equipment, are key and crosscutting throughout the Convention and essential for its effective and efficient implementation, and the Group highlights the value of the expertise provided by the countries of the Global South in the international efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime.

26. The Group also highlights the importance of international cooperation, including South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to enhance capabilities of Member States to prevent, detect and combat effectively transnational organized crime.

27. 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.

28. 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, predictable and stable funding to the Conference, the 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.

29. 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.

30. The Group kindly reiterates its requests to the Executive Director to intensify the efforts to ensure that the principle of equitable geographical distribution, and gender balance are fully incorporated 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.

Mr. President,

31. 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 a balanced and effective implementation of the 2030 agenda, recognizing its integrated, indivisible, global nature and universal application.

Thank you, Mr. President.



COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-
TEST-BAN TREATY
ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the 62nd Session of Working Group B,
19 February – 1 March 2024
delivered by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Hamdy Elmolla,
Permanent Representative of Egypt**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to begin by expressing its deepest condolences to the people of Chile over the loss of lives caused by recent natural disasters and the passing of the former president of Chile Sebastián Piñera. The Group would also like to express its heartfelt condolences to the Namibian people on the passing of their President, Dr. Hage G. Geingob and the Iranian people on the horrific attack in the city of Kerman.

2. The Group congratulates you, Dr. Erlan Batyrbekov, on your reappointment for a second term as Chairperson of Working Group B and is pleased to see you, conducting our work in this 62nd Session together with the Vice-Chairs and Task Leaders. The Group assures you of its full cooperation.

3. The Group congratulates H.E. Ambassador KAIFU Atsushi, Permanent Representative of Japan, on his election as Chairperson of the Preparatory Commission for the year 2024. The Group thanks H.E. Ambassador Benno Lagner, Permanent Representative of Switzerland, for chairing the Preparatory Commission during 2023.

4. The Group thanks Dr. Robert Floyd, the Executive Secretary, for his opening remarks and takes note of his report on verification related activities for the period from July to December 2023. We also take note of the documents prepared for this session by the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) and appreciate the PTS efforts in making them available. In this regard, we also consider that States Signatories would benefit from technical briefings on the reports submitted to policy-making organs.

Mr. Chair,

5. 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.

6. The Science and Technology Conference is an effective platform for an exchange of knowledge and ideas with the broader scientific community. The Group takes note of the preliminary report of the 2023 Conference and looks forward to the final version.

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 that the data availability of certified IMS stations remained high and automated products of the IDC met the timeliness requirements.

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 301 (93.8%) and 306 (90.8%) 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. The Group looks forward to the resumption of these consultations at the next session of the PrepCom with a view to finalize it at the earliest. We recognize that the PTS has reaffirmed that it continues to observe the decision of the Commission that no campaign will be initiated in the future without guidance.

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 commission are not time bound and are requirement-based.

g) The Group welcomes the completion of the OSI programme of work for 2022-2023 and looks forward to the implementation of the OSI exercise plan for 2022-2025, including RIC 26 (Egypt), IFE 25 (Sri Lanka), BUE 24 (Hungary) and Workshop – 26 (Chile).

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.

i) The Group notes document CTBT/PTS.INF.1685 titled “International Monitoring System Sustainment Strategy: Technical Approach” and would like to reiterate its support to the PTS efforts to ensure the operationalization of the verification regime. The Group looks forward to the relevant technical data on the IMS status to be concluded in a timely manner in order to allow for more informed discussions.

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, 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 Technical Experts Support Programme (TESP) 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.

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.

Mr. Chair,

12. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and would like to emphasize the contribution of youth in promoting peace and

security. The Group 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 above-mentioned principles.

13. The Group requests the PTS to include in its next relevant report concrete actions for the realization of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in order to improve the current representation of developing countries in the PTS.

14. In the context of the celebration of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the Group welcomes the efforts of the PTS for improving and strengthening gender balance, including through increased support for the mentoring programme for early career women in STEM coming from geographical regions which are under-represented in CTBTO staff, the application and inclusion of gender consideration in the selection of TESP candidates, capacity building, training activities and conferences with the aim to actively boost women involvement in CTBT activities.

15. The Group welcomes the efforts of the PTS for improving and strengthening of multilingualism, including, developing technical documents and organizing regional meetings in CTBTO languages other than English and looks forward to continuing the work on this matter. In this vein, the Group also welcomes the first NDC training for Spanish-speaking NDCs held in Costa Rica from 20-24 November 2023.

16. 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.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the Sixty-Fifth Session of Working Group A
27-28 May 2024
delivered by H.E. Ms. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Madam Chair,

The Group of 77 and China would like to begin by expressing its deepest condolences to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the the passing of their President, Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs and other officials after the tragic helicopter crash.

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Evangelina Bernas, as new Chairperson for Working Group A and would want to assure you of the Group's full support and cooperation.
2. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary Dr. Robert Floyd for his opening remarks and takes note of his report on non-verification related activities for the period from September 2023-March 2024.
3. The Group also extends its appreciation to the PTS for the timely issuance of documents for this session.
4. The Group welcomes the appointment of the new International Data Center Director, Mr Dounia Keda, and wishes him all the success in his new role and assures him our full support.

Madam Chair,

5. The Group is pleased to note that Papua New Guinea has ratified the Treaty, bringing the number of State Signatories to 187 and of ratifications to 178. 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 achieve general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

6. The Group takes note that the Financial Statements of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for 2023 received an unqualified (unmodified) opinion from the External Auditor and welcomes that 11 recommendations agreed by the External Auditors were closed in 2023.

7. The Group takes note of the 2025 Budget Update Proposals: Initial Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1695, and Corr.1). The Group continues to encourage the PTS, to make every effort to maintain a minimal as possible price adjustment and to ensure that financial resources are put to best use, taking into account the importance of a zero percent real growth policy in the budget. Additionally, the Group has the following comments:

(a) The Group takes note in the 2025 Budget update proposal that the 2025 Total Regular Budget at estimated 2025 prices is \$139.73 in notional US\$ equivalent value, with an overall weighted average price adjustment of 2.4%. The Group notes that 80.6% of the 2025 Budget is allocated to verification activities

(b) The Group encourages the PTS to continue to identify savings and efficiencies in the current and future budgets. The difficult global macroeconomic circumstances continue to negatively impact on States Signatories, adding to the pertinent financial burdens and posing new challenges in particular for developing countries;

(c) The Group considers a priority the effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities, which are aimed at increasing the capabilities of States Signatories to participate in the verification regime, and reiterates its position that capacity building activities should be funded in a sufficient, predictable and sustainable manner through the Regular Budget. The Group requests the PTS to continue providing information, documents and organizing briefings on this subject inter-sessionally;

(d) 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;

(e) The Group takes note of the draft decision on the carry forward of the Capital Investment Fund (CIF) and Multiyear Funds unspent balances backed by cash as of 31 December 2023 to the financial period 2024, as soon as the corresponding amounts are final and audited;

(f) The Group is of the view that the Secretariat should continue convening necessary Expert Meetings to define the projects and elaborate the exercise plan based on challenging scenarios to be held in the future, in preparation for the integrated field exercise (IFE) 2025;

(g) 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;

(h) The Group takes note of the Report on Multilingualism in the PTS (CTBT/PTS/INF.1704) and the progress with regards to conducting a large proportion of activities 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 and notes the efforts of the PTS providing records of the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, in all languages, on the ECS.

8. The Group 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 in-person and virtual training programmes. The Group would also like to highlight that those activities, that are already approved and budgeted but were not carried out should be rescheduled as soon as possible.

Madam Chair,

9. The Group takes note of the 2023 Report on Human Resources Management and Equal Employment Opportunities – Women in the Provisional Technical Secretariat (CTBT/PTS/INF.1701). In this regard, the Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and would like to emphasize the contribution of youth in promoting peace and security. The Group 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 takes positive note of the efforts of the PTS in promoting work opportunities in the Commission and is encouraged that applications from the Global South have increased.

10. The Group remains concerned with the low level of representation of developing countries in the PTS. The Group looks forward to further discussing the issue of equitable geographical representation in the upcoming WGA and regularly thereafter, and therefore, while noting that the PTS continues to provide updated data, requests further steps to make progress in addressing the current persistent low representation of developing countries in the PTS and to make all necessary efforts to bring geographical representation to equitable levels.

11. The Group recognizes the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, and encourages to continue improving gender representation at Professional and director level which stands at 37.3% according to the most recent Non-Verification Report. 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.

12. The Group looks forward to a constructive deliberation, timely and consensual conclusion of the work of this Working Group and all other subsidiary bodies of the PrepCom.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China
during the 62nd Session of the Preparatory Commission,
24 – 26 June 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Mr. Chair,

1. Since this is the first time the Group takes the floor under your Chairpersonship, the Group takes this opportunity to congratulate you, Ambassador Atsushi Kaifu on your appointment to this role and expresses its full support and cooperation.
2. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary for his opening remarks and 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.

Mr. Chair,

3. The Group is pleased to note that since our last meeting, Papua New Guinea, has ratified the Treaty, bringing the number of States Signatories to 187 and of Ratifiers to 178. In this regard, 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 achieve complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
4. The Group would like to reiterate that the CTBT and the NPT are mutually reinforcing legal instruments of the international disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime. We reaffirm the central role of the NPT, as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and the envisaged role of the CTBT, in furthering nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation both vertical and horizontal.
5. The Group continues to express its serious 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. The Group takes note of the report of Working Group A and would like to reiterate some points expressed during the 65th session:

(a) The Group takes note of the 2025 Budget Update Proposals: Initial Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1695, and Corr.1).

(b) The Group reiterates its support for a zero percent real growth policy in preparing future budgets. Additionally, we request the PTS to maintain a minimal price adjustment and identify means to ensure that financial resources are put to best use. In this regard, we note that the difficult global macroeconomic circumstances continues to have a substantial impact on developing states, adding to the pertinent financial burdens and posing new challenges.

(c) 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.

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

(e) The Group reiterates its position that the cash surplus decision does not entail a position regarding the IMS sustainment strategy and shall not constitute a precedent or additional financial burdens in preparing the next regular budget of the CTBTO, nor will it affect its baseline.

(f) The Group notes the progress with regards to making a large proportion of the training modules available in all United Nations official languages.

Mr Chair,

7. The Group would like to reiterate some points expressed during 62nd session of Working Group B:

(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 Technical Experts Support Program (TESP) that facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries, as well as the National Data Center for All (NDCs4All), that allow access to secure signatory accounts among the three dimensions. 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.

8. The Group also takes note of the report of the Advisory Group at its 62nd 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,

9. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and would like to emphasize the contribution of youth in promoting peace and security.

10. The Group remains concerned with the low level of representation of developing countries in the PTS. The Group looks forward to further discussing the issue of equitable geographical representation. While noting that the PTS continues to provide updated data, the Group requests further steps be taken to bring geographical representation to equitable levels.

11. The Group recognizes the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, and encourages the PTS to continue improving gender representation at Professional and director level. The Group also welcomes the inclusion of gender parity criteria in the selection of TESP candidates. The Group requests the PTS to make further efforts to achieve gender balance among the staff of the organization at all levels of responsibility. The Group encourages the PTS to continue to use new and existing tools to encourage the participation of young female professionals, especially from developing countries, in the PTS.

12. The Group takes note of the Report on Multilingualism in the PTS (CTBT/PTS/INF.1704) and the progress with regard to conducting a large proportion of activities in all 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 and notes the efforts of the PTS providing records of the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, in all languages, on the ECS.

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 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.

15. The Group looks forward to finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, as a matter of priority at the next session of the PrepCom.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



**G-77 and China Statement during the 63rd Session of Working Group B,
27 August - 6 September 2024
delivered by H.E. Ms. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group is pleased to see you Dr. Erlan Batyrbekov, as Chairperson of Working Group B and, conducting our work in this 63rd Session together with the Vice-Chairs and Task Leaders. The Group assures you of its full cooperation.
2. The Group thanks Dr. Robert Floyd, the Executive Secretary, for his opening remarks and takes note of his report on verification related activities for the period from January to June 2024. We also take note of the documents prepared for this session by the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS).

Mr. Chair,

3. 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 takes note of the statement of the Executive Secretary at the 2nd session of the Preparatory Committee of the 11th NPT Review Conference in Geneva.
5. The Science and Technology Conference is an effective platform for an exchange of knowledge and ideas with the broader scientific community. The Group takes note of the report of the 2023 Conference.
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 that the data availability of certified IMS stations remained high and automated products of the IDC met the timeliness requirements.
- 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 and certified stations remain at 301 and 292 respectively (of 321 total stations) and the number of certified facilities is at 306 (of 337 total).
- 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. The Group looks forward to the resumption of these consultations at the next session of the PrepCom with a view to finalize it at the earliest. We recognize that the PTS has reaffirmed that it continues to observe the decision of the Commission that no campaign will be initiated in the future without guidance.
- 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 commission are not time bound and are requirement-based.
- g) The Group welcomes the completion of RIC 26 that was held in Egypt and takes note of the BUE 24 that took place in Hungary.
- h) The Group notes document CTBT/PTS.INF.1685 titled “International Monitoring System Sustainment Strategy: Technical Approach” and will continue to support the PTS’s efforts to ensure the operationalization of the verification regime. The Group further notes the document CTBT/PTS/INF.1712 titled “International Monitoring System Sustainment Strategy: A

Comprehensive Forecast of Long Term Requirement”. The Group requests the PTS to provide regular updates to States Signatories on the long term IMS sustainment strategy and its funding needs.

i) In light of the global economic climate in which developing countries are facing severe challenges, the Group requests the PTS to take into account the importance of a zero percent real growth in the regular budget and the need to continue to maintain such, and to find further savings and efficiencies as well as seek other modalities in funding the IMS sustainment gap and, considering the preparatory nature of the Commission, the Group emphasizes the need to adhere to the nature and purpose of the provisional operation and maintenance guidelines, and relevant decisions thereafter. The Group also emphasizes that IMS sustainment should work in tandem with relevant progress in building the capacity of State Signatories, especially developing countries, to benefit from and use the verification regime upon entry into force, including through the NDC4all initiative.

Mr. Chair,

8. The Group emphasizes the importance of capacity building, and expresses its appreciation to the PTS for its efforts in providing and expanding its capacity-building activities of introductory and advanced courses, technical training, and workshops using in-person, online and hybrid formats. The continuous need for cooperation and support and the provision of technical assistance, in particular to developing countries, ensures that all State Signatories 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 Technical Experts Support Programme (TESP) that facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in the WGB sessions. The Group continues to witness that such participation contributes at the technical level towards the wider and equal participation of all State Signatories to the policy-making organs of the Organization.

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 IDC products.

Mr. Chair,

11. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and would like to emphasize the contribution of youth in promoting peace and security. The Group 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 above-mentioned principles.

12. The Group requests the PTS to include in its next relevant report concrete actions for the realization of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in order to improve the current representation of developing countries in the PTS.

13. The Group welcomes the efforts of the PTS for improving and strengthening gender balance, including through increased support for the mentoring programme for early career women in STEM coming from geographical regions which are under-represented in CTBTO staff, the application and inclusion of gender consideration in the selection of TESP candidates, capacity building, training activities and conferences with the aim to actively boost women involvement in CTBT activities.

14. The Group welcomes the efforts of the PTS for improving and strengthening of multilingualism, including, developing technical documents and organizing regional meetings in CTBTO languages other than English and looks forward to continuing the work on this matter. The Group welcomes the PTS' plan to expand its NDC training events to all languages of the Commission including the addition of a NDC training workshop in Arabic to the 2024 calendar and in French and Spanish in 2025.

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.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the Sixty-Sixth Session of Working Group A
16 – 18 October 2024
delivered by H.E. Ms. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Ambassador Evangelina Bernas, chairing the 66th Session of Working Group A and assures you of the Group's full support and cooperation.
2. The Group also thanks the Executive Secretary Dr. Robert Floyd for his opening remarks and takes note of his report on non-verification related activities for the period from April 2024-August 2024.
3. The Group also extends its appreciation to the PTS for the timely issuance of documents for this session.

Madam Chair,

4. 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 achieve general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Madam Chair,

5. The Group takes note of the 2025 Budget Update Proposals: Final Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1695/Rev.1). The Group reiterates its request to the PTS, to make every effort to maintain a minimal as possible price adjustment and to ensure that financial resources are put to best use, taking into account the importance of a zero percent real growth policy in the budget. Additionally, the Group has the following comments:

- (a) The Group notes the amount of \$ 134.8 million with an overall weighted average price adjustment of 2.4% to be financed via assessed contributions and encourages the PTS to continue identifying efficiencies and savings in the current and future budgets. The Group also notes that 80.5% of the 2025 Budget is allocated to verification activities;
- (b) The difficult global macroeconomic circumstances has not abated and continue to negatively impact on States Signatories, adding to the pertinent financial burdens and posing new challenges

in particular for developing countries. In this regard, the Group welcomes the consideration of a zero real growth policy and highlights the importance of maintaining this approach while feasible;

(c) The effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities is a priority to the Group to enhance the capabilities of States Signatories to participate in the verification regime, and capacity building activities should be funded in a sufficient, predictable and sustainable manner through the Regular Budget. The Group requests the PTS to continue providing information, documents and organizing briefings on this subject inter-sessionally;

(d) 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;

(e) The Group is of the view that the Secretariat should continue convening necessary Expert Meetings to define the projects and elaborate the exercise plan based on challenging scenarios to be held in the future, in preparation for the integrated field exercise (IFE) 2025;

(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 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 and notes the efforts of the PTS providing records of the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, in all languages, on the ECS.

(h) The Group notes documents CTBT/PTS/INF.1717 and CTBT/PTS/INF.1685 regarding the financial and technical approaches to the IMS long-term sustainment strategy. While stressing the importance of ~~long-term~~ maintenance and recapitalization of the IMS infrastructure to ensure a fully functional verification regime, the Group recalls that the operation of the IMS remains provisional and testing in nature, pending the entry into force of the Treaty. The Group is of the view that the sustainment strategy should be accompanied by sufficient PTS staffing and ~~adequate~~ capacity building for State Signatories.

6. The Group welcomes the PTS's efforts in identifying other sources of funding to mitigate financial burdens on States Signatories and stresses the need to maintain an adequate allocation of resources for capacity building programmes, especially for developing countries to ensure their full participation in the verification regime upon the entry into force of the Treaty. The Group further encourages the PTS to maintain an adequate implementation rate of the Capacity Building Fund to meet the required needs of States Signatories.

Madam Chair,

7. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and would like to emphasize the contribution of youth in promoting peace and security. The Group 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 takes positive note of the efforts of the PTS in promoting work opportunities in the Commission and is encouraged that applications from the Global South have increased.

8. The Group remains concerned with the low level of representation of developing countries in the PTS. The Group looks forward to further discussing the issue of equitable geographical representation in the upcoming WGA and regularly thereafter, and therefore, while noting that the PTS continues to provide updated data, requests further steps to make progress in addressing the current persistent low representation of developing countries in the PTS and to make all necessary efforts to bring geographical representation to equitable levels.

9. The Group recognizes the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, and encourages to continue improving gender representation at Professional and director level which stands at 38% according to the most recent Non-Verification Report. 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 encourage the PTS to use new and existing tools to encourage the participation of young female professionals in the PTS.

10. The Group looks forward to a constructive deliberation, timely and consensual conclusion of the work of this Working Group and all other subsidiary bodies of the PrepCom.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



**Statement of the Group of 77 and China
during the 63rd Session of the Preparatory Commission,
11 – 13 November 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Colombia**

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group is pleased to see you, Ambassador Atsushi Kaifu, chairing the 63rd Session of the Preparatory Commission and we wish to express our full support and cooperation.
2. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary for his opening remarks and 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.

Mr. Chair,

3. 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 achieve complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
4. The Group would like to reiterate that the CTBT and the NPT are mutually reinforcing legal instruments of the international disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime. We reaffirm the central role of the NPT, as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and the envisaged role of the CTBT, in furthering nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation both vertical and horizontal.
5. The Group continues to express its serious 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. The Group would like to thank Ambassador Evangelina Bernas for presenting the report and for her exemplary leadership of Working Group A. The Group takes note of the report of the 66th session Working Group A and, in this regard, would like to emphasize some points:

- (a) The Group takes note of the 2025 Budget Update Proposals: Final Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1695/Rev.1).

(b) The difficult global macroeconomic circumstances have not abated and continue to negatively impact on States Signatories, adding to the pertinent financial burdens and posing new challenges in particular for developing countries. In this regard, the Group welcomes the consideration of a zero real growth policy and highlights the importance of maintaining this approach while feasible.

(c) Mindful of the Preparatory Commission's mandate to ensure a fully functional verification regime, the Group recalls that the operation of the IMS remains provisional and testing in nature, pending the entry into force of the Treaty and looks forward to the presentation of additional financing scenarios for the IMS sustainment strategy for the consideration of State Signatories. The Group is also of the view that the sustainment strategy should be accompanied by sufficient PTS staffing and capacity building for State Signatories.

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

Mr Chair,

7. The Group takes note of the report of Working Group B at its 63rd session and thanks Dr Erlan Batyrbekov for presenting the report and in this regard would like to reiterate some points:

(a) The Group stresses the importance of maintenance and recapitalization of IMS structure and emphasizes the provisional operational nature of the IMS, while highlighting the need to adhere to the provisional operation and maintenance guidelines, and relevant decisions thereafter. The Group requests the PTS to continue to provide regular updates to States Signatories on the IMS sustainment strategy and its funding needs.

(b) 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.

(c) The Group expresses its support for initiatives, such as the Technical Experts Support Program (TESP) and the National Data Center for All (NDCs4All). The Group is convinced that such initiative will greatly contribute to capacity-building in developing countries and to achieving wider participation of all States Signatories in the decision-making process and ownership of the Commission.

(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 that engaging in construction, maintenance and/or relocation of IMS facilities must be fully in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

8. The Group also takes note of the report of the Advisory Group at its 63rd 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,

9. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and would like to emphasize the contribution of youth in promoting peace and security.

10. The Group remains concerned with the low level of representation of developing countries in the PTS. The Group looks forward to further discussing the issue of equitable geographical representation. While noting that the PTS continues to provide updated data, the Group requests further steps be taken to bring geographical representation to equitable levels.

11. The Group recognizes the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, and encourages the PTS to continue improving gender representation at Professional and director level. The Group also welcomes the inclusion of gender parity criteria in the selection of TESP candidates. The Group requests the PTS to make further efforts to achieve gender balance among the staff of the organization at all levels of responsibility. The Group encourages the PTS to continue to use new and existing tools to encourage the participation of young female professionals, especially from developing countries, in the PTS.

12. 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 and notes the efforts of the PTS providing records of the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, in all languages, on the ECS.

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 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.

15. The Group looks forward to finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, as a matter of priority at the next session of the PrepCom.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



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



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
15-26 April 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

AGENDA ITEM 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Thank you Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to express our gratitude to you, Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa, a member of the Group, for your Chairpersonship of the 61st and 62nd Sessions of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS. The Group also warmly welcomes Mr. Santiago Ripol Carulla of Spain as the new Chair of the Subcommittee and assures you and the members of the bureau of our full support during this Session.

2. The Group further takes the opportunity to thank the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini, and the Secretariat for the preparations and planning made for convening this meeting.

Chair,

3. The Group underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration of 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; 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;

- c. 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.

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 is of the view that all outer space activities, including mega-constellations and their related operations, should fully respect the UN Charter, international law and the principle of non-intervention. If mega-constellations or any satellite internet company wishes to operate into a country, these operations must respect the national laws and landing rights of that country and the relevant legal instruments of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Developing countries are increasingly engaging in space activities and in the membership and 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.

10. In this regard, the Group reaffirms its recognition of the potential, importance and impact of space activities for developing countries and their relevance in the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including through the “Space2030” Agenda and its Implementation Plan.

11. 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 and technical assistance programmes.

12. 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.

I thank you.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
15-26 April 2024,
delivered by Diana Kecán,
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Colombia**

**AGENDA ITEM 6: STATUS AND APPLICATION OF THE FIVE UNITED NATIONS
TREATIES ON OUTER SPACE, AND WAYS AND MEANS, INCLUDING CAPACITY-
BUILDING, TO PROMOTE THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.**

Thank you Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China is of the view that a wide adherence and membership 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 entities, and the benefits derived from space science, technology and their applications, including the economic relevance of space tools, 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 any action by space actors and entities should conform to applicable international space law.

I thank you.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
15-26 April 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

AGENDA ITEM 7A: THE DEFINITION AND DELIMITATION OF OUTER SPACE

Chair,

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.

I thank you.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
15-26 April 2024,
delivered by Diana Kecán,
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Colombia**

AGENDA ITEM 7B: GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT

Chair,

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 and it needs to be addressed appropriately.
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.

I thank you, Chair.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
15-26 April 2024,
delivered by Hasan Abbas,
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan**

AGENDA ITEM 9: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON POTENTIAL LEGAL MODELS FOR ACTIVITIES IN EXPLORATION, EXPLOITATION AND UTILIZATION OF SPACE RESOURCES

Chair,

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, exploitation and utilization.
3. The Group reiterates its support of the work 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 session of the Legal Subcommittee and looks forward to fruitful deliberations on this pertinent issue.
4. The Group believes that discussions should be as inclusive as possible for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind, 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. The Group also believes that in order to be inclusive and transparent, these discussions should take place within formal sessions, which should be allotted sufficient time, with interpretation services in all official UN languages.
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 a possible 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 taken into account in the discussion.

I thank you.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
15-26 April 2024,
delivered by Diana Kecán,
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Colombia**

**AGENDA ITEM 10: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON
LEGAL MECHANISMS RELATING TO SPACE DEBRIS MITIGATION AND
REMEDICATION MEASURES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WORK OF THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE**

Chair,

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. The Group also expresses its concern regarding falling space debris, including during launch and uncontrolled re-entry, which pose a threat to human life, infrastructure, environment and communities on Earth.

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, technical and legal expertise to developing countries.

4. With regard to falling space debris, the Group encourages launching states to provide advanced, proper, prompt and adequate notification to other states specially developing countries, located along the drop zones of falling space debris, as applicable, to ensure that they are sufficiently prepared to mitigate and respond to such incidents. It is equally important to strengthen the capacities of developing countries in detecting and responding to falling space debris.

5. 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, Chair.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
15-26 April 2024,
delivered by Hasan Abbas,
Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan**

**AGENDA ITEM 11: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NON-LEGALLY
BINDING UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENTS ON OUTER SPACE**

Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration of 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 Assembly¹, the Group underscores the importance of upholding the principle of promoting the availability of remote sensing data on a nondiscriminatory basis, as this type of information is essential to the promotion of sustainable development in areas such as agriculture, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change, and global health, and also promotes transparency and confidence among States.

3. The Group reiterates its support 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 Countries², which was adopted by the General Assembly. 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

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.

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, Chair.



**Statement of the G-77 and China
during the sixty-third session of the Legal Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,
15-26 April 2024,
delivered by H.E. Laura Gil,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Colombia**

AGENDA ITEM 13: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO SMALL-SATELLITE ACTIVITIES

Chair

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 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;
 - That no space object should be removed or eliminated without prior consent or authorization of the Registering State; and
 - Since debris generation goes against the interest of all States, satellite removal or elimination should be done in a responsible manner.

Thank you Chair.



77

UNITED NATIONS
COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
LAW (UNCITRAL)



**Draft statement of the G-77 and China
during the informal consultations to examine the proposal
to streamline future UNCITRAL omnibus resolution,
12 June 2024,
delivered by Erik Mangajaya,
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Indonesia**

Thank you Chair,

Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for facilitating and preparing this meeting to discuss the issue of streamlining and simplifying future resolutions on the work of UNCITRAL.
2. The Group takes note of the mandate given to the Secretariat in para 310 of the Report of Fifty-sixth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law held in 2023 (Document No. A/78/17) that the UNCITRAL Commission requested the Secretariat to “facilitate an open and flexible intersessional consultative process among Member States with a view to developing guidelines on streamlining and simplifying the text of future UNCITRAL omnibus resolutions, and to report back thereon to the Commission at its next session, in 2024.”
3. Furthermore we would like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat of UNCITRAL for the briefing with the G-77 held in Vienna on 23 May 2024.
4. Regarding streamlining issues, the Group would like to express our view as follows:
 - (a) The streamlining exercise should not prejudice any means of interpretation according to international law.
 - (b) The Group would also like to restate paragraph 19 of document A/RES/78/103: “any invitation to limit, where appropriate, the length of documents should not adversely affect either the quality of the presentation or the substance of the documents, to bear in mind the particular characteristics of the mandate and functions of the Commission in the progressive development and codification of international trade law when implementing page limits with respect to the documentation of the Commission.”
 - (c) The Group is of the view that concerns about the length of the Omnibus Resolution could be addressed by re-organizing the document following a systematical and logical flow.
5. The Group welcomes the efforts to continue the discussions and finalize the deliberations.

I thank you.