



**REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR MAURICE MAKOLOO On the  
Occasion of Kenya's Assumption of the Chairmanship of the G77 +  
China, Vienna Chapter**

**4th February 2025**

**Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the government and people of Kenya, and the dedicated team at the Kenya Mission in Vienna, I express my deepest gratitude for the confidence you have placed in us. Kenya is honoured to assume the chairmanship of the G77 Vienna Chapter. This is a historic moment—only the second time Kenya has held this esteemed position since our first chairmanship in Rome in 1979. We accept this responsibility with humility and an unwavering commitment, fully dedicated to advancing the interests of this distinguished Group.

I extend my sincere appreciation to my dear sister, Ambassador Laura Gil, and her team for their steady and skillful leadership over the past year. Their dedication has been invaluable in guiding our collective mission. I also acknowledge the Secretariat for its exemplary planning and support—Crosby, in particular, has been outstanding. Yesterday, I had the privilege of meeting the new Taskforce Coordinators. Together, we pledge to serve with diligence, vision, and determination, ensuring that our work strengthens this Group and its global impact. Please join me in recognizing these professionals for their dedication.

To the Executive Heads of the Vienna-Based Organizations, your presence today reaffirms the strength of our collaboration. Your partnership is not just appreciated—it is essential.



## **Excellencies,**

We gather at a time of profound global challenges. These are not easy days. It would be tempting to retreat into our own corners, to lament in hushed tones. But history has shown us that the greatest progress is made when humanity comes together, especially in moments of adversity. Our past—both as individual nations and as a Group—has prepared us for this moment. The lessons of history, and indeed our shared experience here in Vienna, remind us that when we listen to one another with open minds, when we seek to understand rather than to divide, when we prioritize a collective future over individual gain—we always, always find consensus. That, Excellencies, is the Vienna spirit. It is also the enduring spirit of the G77—a spirit of unity, not born of weakness, but of the recognition that we are stronger together. Now is not the time to lament how much the world has changed. Now is the time to reignite hope—hope in the ability of nations to bridge divides, hope in multilateralism as a force for good, hope in the boundless potential of collaboration.

Our mission is clear: we must be bridge-builders—across regions, cultures, and ideologies. Strengthening South-South cooperation is not just an option, it is an imperative. Working together with our partners in the Global North is not just beneficial, it is necessary. Deepening our engagement with the Vienna-Based Organizations is not just strategic, it is critical to our shared success.

## **Excellencies,**

This is a moment for consolidation—of the progress we have made, of the partnerships we have built, of the unity that has defined us. And yet, it is also a moment to push further, to break new ground, to reimagine what is possible. I place my faith in you. Let us stand together, preserving the unity that has brought us this far. We often turn to the wisdom of the African proverb: If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. Speed has its place—there will be moments when swift action is necessary. But let us never lose sight of the



destination. If the road demands that we slow down to go farther, let us embrace that wisdom. And even then, let our focus remain firmly on the goal. Together, we will uphold the values of this Group. Together, we will advance its mission. Together, we will shape a future that reflects the aspirations of all.

I thank you.