



Her Excellency Ambassador Gil,
His Excellency Ambassador Makoloo,
Dear Ms. Waly and colleagues from the VIC-based
organizations,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

- The Group of G77 is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries at the UN.
- I am very glad to be with you here today.
- First of all, my congratulations to His Excellency **Ambassador Makoloo of Kenya** on being elected Chair of the Group.
- And I especially thank Her Excellency **Ambassador Gil of Colombia**, for the great cooperation over the last year.
- And particularly for your role in facilitating the **Memorandum of Understanding between UNIDO and UNODC**.

- Last year was the **sixtieth anniversary of the G77**, which we celebrated here at the VIC.
- It was a major milestone - much has been achieved in those sixty years.
- The Group is a **force for economic growth**, and giving a louder **voice to developing countries** on the world stage.
- And this is more necessary now than ever, especially after the current decisions in the US.
- **UNIDO is also a voice for your countries** in the United Nations and the international community, and at conferences such as the COP.
- Your countries are most affected by climate change, and this is just one example.
- Going forward, UNIDO will continue to support you through key programmes – especially in **access to energy and energy transition, digitalization**, technology and knowledge transfer, fight against hunger and climate change.

Excellencies,

- A highlight of last year was UNIDO's **World Without Hunger conference**.
- Our study shows and makes it clear that a world without hunger is possible, it just depends on the political will.
- It marked the start of new, intensified effort to end hunger in developing countries around the world.
- It concluded with the **Addis Ababa Call to Action**.
- At UNIDO we are working hard on **building new partnerships**.
- For example we announced a **lighthouse solution** for the digital and sustainable transformation of Africa's coffee value chain.
- Working with the **International Coffee Organization, illycaffè, Lavazza, Google and others - private sector partnerships**.
- **Another example, we established a Centre of Excellence with China in Ethiopia**.
- Such innovative partnerships are the way forward for all of us.

- This year I plan to **travel to several G77 Member States.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,,

- 2024 was a very successful year for UNIDO. Our fund mobilization increased. From \$328 million in 2023, to \$664 million in 2024.
- The discussions on **UNIDO's Programme and Budgets 2026-2027** are coming up.
- I hope for your strong support during this process
- I have ambitious plans for the future to strengthen our cooperation
- TC delivery increased by 29% in 2024, and this gave us the opportunity for a much stronger cooperation, more projects, more partnerships with your countries.
- Most of our projects are in cooperation with you.
- Looking ahead, your presence and your voices at UNIDO's General Conference at the end of this year will be critical.

- I am very **grateful to Saudi Arabia for hosting this General Conference.**

Excellencies,

- **We at UNIDO are your proud partners,** and are proud to host the G77 Vienna Chapter for 26 years now.
- Thank you for the great cooperation we enjoy.
- Together, we will achieve so much more!

Thank you so much.