

**Remarks by Deputy Director Driss El Hadani at the Handover  
Ceremony of the G-77 Vienna Chapter  
Tuesday 4 February, 2025**

**Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ambassadors, Esteemed Delegates of the G77,**

It is a privilege to stand before you today at this important moment of transition for the G77 Vienna Chapter. Let me begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for the invitation to participate in this ceremony and extend my congratulations to both the outgoing and incoming Chairs. Your leadership plays a vital role in advancing the shared vision and priorities of the G77, ensuring that the voices of developing nations remain strong and united in global governance discussions.

Over the past year as Deputy Director of UNOOSA, I have witnessed firsthand the commitment and engagement of G77 countries in the global space agenda. Your collective advocacy has been instrumental in shaping discussions within the **Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)**, ensuring that space remains a **global commons**—accessible to all nations, regardless of their technological or economic standing.

However, there is still work to be done. Out of the **134** G77 member states, **71 are not yet represented in COPUOS**. This means that many developing countries are not fully leveraging the opportunities that space offers for development, economic growth, and resilience. This must change. **Space is not a luxury**—it is an essential tool for addressing today's global challenges, from climate change to food security and digital economy.

UNOOSA stands ready to work with you and your governments to showcase how space technologies and applications can drive sustainable development and economic prosperity. A prime example of this is Kenya. Over the past four years, Kenya has transformed into a space-emerging nation with UNOOSA's support. Through a collaborative project with Japan, Kenya deployed its first satellite from the International Space Station in 2019. Since then, Kenya has established a national space agency, registered its satellites under international treaties, and worked with UNOOSA, Uganda, Egypt, and Airbus to deploy a climate change monitoring camera on the ISS. In 2023, the same week Kenya launched its first indigenous satellite, UNOOSA was in Nairobi assisting the government in finalizing its National Space Bill—kickstarting a national space economy.

Kenya's story is just one of many, demonstrating how space can be leveraged for tangible national and regional development.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Ambassadors, Esteemed Delegates**

The coming years will be pivotal for space cooperation. In 2025, we will conduct the **Mid-Term Review of the Space2030 Agenda**, a key moment to assess progress and identify

capacity-building needs. This is your opportunity to influence how the international community tackles the **space divide**.

Additionally, the discussions on **UNISPACE IV**, a projected high-level UN space conference in 2027, represent an unprecedented opportunity to elevate space issues in your national agendas. If agreed upon this year, UNISPACE IV will accelerate access to space-related data, services, and technologies for G77 countries.

UNOOSA is committed to collaborating with you to turn this vision into reality. Together, let us leverage space for development, innovation, and resilience—not only for today but for generations to come.

Thank you.