

**Speech on behalf of the Director-General/Executive  
Director at the Group of 77 Vienna Chapter  
Handover Ceremony  
24 February 2017**

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**I am pleased to deliver a statement on behalf of the Director-General of UNOV/Executive Director of UNODC Mr. Yury Fedotov who conveys his regrets not being able to attend today's handover ceremony of the Chairmanship of the G-77 Vienna Chapter.**

**He does sent his warmest regards and he wishes to sincerely thank to the outgoing president of the G-77 Vienna Chapter Ambassador Simon Madjumo Maruta, PM of Namibia. Throughout your presidency Ambassador Maruta you have shown the highest dedication, commitment and leadership.**

**Mr. Fedotov also welcomes the incoming president Ambassador Reza Najafi, PM of the IR of Iran. He congratulates you with this new and challenging assignment. He very much looks forward to working with you and wishes you every success in your chairmanship of the G-77 Vienna Chapter.**

**The G-77 plays an invaluable role on the world's stage by articulating the collective economic interests of dozens of countries and its ability to promote South-South cooperation for increased development.**

**This essential work is now of even greater importance since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.**

**Thanks to the New Development Agenda, the world has an ambitious and bold blueprint for the achievement of sustainable development, and for giving hope and a better life to millions of people across this planet.**

**Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the G-77 has been a powerful voice on behalf of nations in advocating sustainable development.**

**The G-77 also plays a pivotal role in supporting the UN Office on Drugs and Crime through sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as in many other forums.**

**In March, the CND will hold its Sixtieth Session**

**in Vienna. This is the first session following the success of the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem.**

**The CND is already engaged in working on the follow up to UNGASS and I hope that the G-77 will work to promote the comprehensive, shared and balanced approach that embraces health, law enforcement, development, and human rights cooperation.**

**UNODC also welcomes the G-77's recognition that sustainable development and the rule of law are strongly connected and mutually reinforcing.**

**The G-77's statement at the Crime Congress in Doha in 2015 stressed the need to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels.**

**In its own work, UNODC is reinforcing the importance of tackling drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism as a means of assisting the broader efforts undertaken to sustain development.**

**Among the many relevant SDGs, achieving Goal 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies is particularly essential to these activities.**

**Yet promoting health is equally vital as outlined in Goal 3 of the 2030 Agenda. If we are to**

**successfully tackle illicit drugs and crime, we must undertake efforts to strengthen prevention, to treat those facing narcotic drug abuse, and to end HIV, while also preventing the spread of hepatitis.**

**By advocating for a balanced approach we are supporting peace, security, development and human rights the core pillars of the United Nations.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**The G-77 has an important role in the life of UNODC and our work would be impossible without your support, your wisdom, and your experience.**

**I once again congratulate the G-77 on today's handover ceremony and UNODC looks forward to working with you, the members, and with the new incoming Chair, Amb. Reza Najafi.**

**Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, thank you for your kind attention.**