

**Remarks by the Deputy Director-General UNOV  
2018 handover ceremony of the Chairmanship of the G-77  
Vienna Chapter  
9 March 2018**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by sharing the regrets of our Director-General and Executive Director Yury Fedotov for not being able to be here with you today.

The Group of 77 plays an active and valuable role in our work at the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The diversity of your membership, coupled with the unity the group demonstrates in pursuing common goals, remains a key strength.

We have seen this in your continued engagement in the work of the governing bodies of UNODC, namely the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Next week we will start the 61st session of the CND, and I wish Ambassador Jativa Naranjo every success in this start to his presidency.

I would also like to thank and congratulate Ambassador Najafi for his successful term as Chairperson for 2017.

Best wishes, and thank you once again.