

**Handover ceremony of the Group of 77 Vienna Chapter
30 January 2019**

**Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

As UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said just a few weeks ago, the G-77 continues to be a central force in demonstrating that multilateralism is the only way to address our shared challenges.

On behalf of the United Nations Office at Vienna, I join the Secretary-General in thanking you for your exemplary engagement and commitment across the agenda of the United Nations.

This is particularly important in this period of transition and change, as we undertake ambitious reforms and support countries across all pillars of the UN's work.

I congratulate Egypt and Ambassador Youssef on assuming the chairmanship for 2019.

As a founding member of the G77, Egypt has much to contribute and we rely on your experience and leadership.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Gomez-Ricaurte for Ecuador's able stewardship of the G-77 Vienna Chapter in 2018.

The UN Office at Vienna and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime count on the continued support and cooperation of the G-77 Vienna Chapter, in the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as Member States prepare for the Ministerial Segment this March, and also in the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as we work towards the Crime Congress in Kyoto in 2020.

Your insights and engagement are essential if we are to seek global solutions to global challenges, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you, congratulations once again and our best wishes for 2019.