

**Statement by H. E. Ambassador Reza Najafi,
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN
Chairman of the G77 in Vienna**

24 February 2017

In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful,

Excellencies,

Mr. Li Young, Director General of UNIDO,

Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of IAEA,

Mr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of CTBTO,

Mr. Jean-Luc Lembahieu, Director, Division of policy Analysis and Public Affairs, UNODC (representing Mr. Y. Fedotov)

Distinguished friends and colleagues,

It is a great honor for my country and for me to have the opportunity to serve the members of the Group of 77 in Vienna for the year 2017.

I would like at the outset to extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the Asian Group as well as the entire membership of the Group of 77 and China for their confidence and trust placed in my country to perform this important task. I would like to assure you that I will make every effort to safeguard the principles, interests, values and aspirations of the Group.

As I assume this responsibility, allow me to pay special tribute to our outgoing Chairman, H. E. Ambassador Simon Madjumo Maruta, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia, for his outstanding stewardship of our Group in 2016 and his valuable efforts in advancing the interests of the Group and for the achievements made throughout his Chairmanship.

Allow me also to express my appreciation to the Heads of International Organizations and their representatives. Their presence among us today underscores our shared commitment and common mission and reaffirms the importance they attach to the work and activities of the Group of 77 and China in Vienna.

I would like to reiterate our resolve to continue working with Vienna based Organizations to further consolidate and strengthen international cooperation as well as South-South Cooperation as a strategy to sustain the development efforts of the members of our Group.

UNIDO as an organization that is currently regaining importance has a dynamic approach with regard to industrialization process aiming at achieving sustainable development. The Organization is making great contribution in addressing South-South Cooperation aiming at alleviating poverty, upgrading industrial capacities for international competitiveness, greening the industry, creating employment especially for the youth and improving access to renewable energy for all. The Group will continue working with UNIDO to advance all these areas with the firm conviction that the Organization has the necessary potentials to help developing countries reach sustainable development according to their national priorities and capacities.

Allow me to take this opportunity to express appreciation for the administrative support of the UNIDO to the Group of 77 and China.

On **UNODC**, the world drugs problem and transnational organized crime are global threat that affect all of us. The global and persisting nature of these problems demand a coordinated and global action based on a common and shared responsibility. In this regard, I would like to reiterate the provision of technical assistance to developing countries for enhancing the capacity building in our societies to tackle these threats that hinder our social and economic development.

On **IAEA**, I would like to reiterate the paramount importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme of the Agency, as the main statutory vehicle for the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology in particular in human health, food and agriculture, water and environment and so on for the attainment of sustainable socio-economic progress in our developing countries. We will therefore continue supporting the Agency in promoting dissemination

of nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes while ensuring the necessary balance between promotional and non-promotional statutory activities of the Agency.

On **CTBTO**, I would like to reaffirm our strong commitment and support to the objectives of the CTBT since this Treaty serves as an integral part of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Bearing in mind that momentous progress has been made so far, we would continue to vividly pursue the main goals and objectives of the Group in terms of the Treaty as one of the main instruments for nuclear disarmament.

On **COPUOS** the outer space, as common heritage of mankind, should be open to all States for peaceful applications.

Let me now turn to a few points regarding the way in which I intend to conduct the business of our Group in 2017:

I intend to continue the path set out by previous Chairs of the Group, through working closely with all of you individually and collectively as well as other groups and with the Vienna based Organizations.

Having an organized channel of dialogue and interaction with the Secretariats of Vienna based International Organizations is very important in order to clarify the issues and be informed of actions undertaken and also sharing the priorities, observations and concerns of our Group on a variety of relevant issues.

I firmly believe in the importance of consultations both formal and informal at all levels. As you are aware all task force leaders for UNIDO, UNODC, IAEA, CTBTO and COPUOS have been recently appointed. I will rely on the work of the Group's task force leaders and the outcome of their meetings. If necessary we will hold plenary meetings to bridge the gaps and reach consensus to the extent possible through constructive dialogue as the best approach in consensus building with due regard to maintaining unity and solidarity among our Group.

I will benefit from the capacity and experience of Troika of the Group, where and when is necessary, to push forward the issues on the Agenda of the Group.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Let me conclude by thanking once again all of you for your valuable support and trust. I wish to assure you that task force leaders and I will do our best to ensure our collective success. I look forward to your valuable support and cooperation in carrying out my responsibility.

Thank you