

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Armin Andereya,
Permanent Representative of Chile
and Chairman of the Group of 77 for 2015**

Vienna, 11 February 2016

Excellencies,
Ambassador Simon MARUTA
Director General Mr. LI Yong,
Director General Mr. Yukiya Amano,
Executive Director Mr. Lassina Zerbo,
Mr. Lale Demoz, Deputy Director General of UNODC

Esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to warmly welcome you all this morning at today's handover ceremony of the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China, and extend to you my best wishes for the New Year.

It has been a great honor for Chile and for me, to serve as a Chair of the Group of 77 and China, for the year 2015.

I would like to start my intervention by congratulating my successor, Ambassador Simon MARUTA of Namibia, for his election as the new Chair of our Group.

Almost exactly one year ago, on February 17th, you entrusted me with the privilege of chairing the Group of 77 Vienna Chapter and it has indeed been a great honor and pride for my country and in particular for myself having been assigned this task. I was particularly keen on promoting the collective interests of the Group and keeping the coherence and strength of our Chapter.

Doubtlessly, there is still much work to be done this year by our Group. As the most important Group of Developing Countries within the United Nations System, we have succeeded in representing the interest and the voice of the developing world in the international arena. Through our work, we have shown that we remain committed to strengthening and revitalizing the multilateral system, particularly international cooperation, as a better mechanism for an equitable decision making process, in order to achieve socio-economic growth of the developing world.

Under Chile's Chairmanship, the Group took a pro-active role in the policymaking bodies of all the Vienna-based Organizations. We have had as a priority to keep and reinforce the spirit of unity existing among delegations and looking for effectiveness in our work. Therefore, we have made an effort to keep a fluent dialogue and consultations at all levels.

It was indeed a very intense, but also fruitful and successful year for the Group. I wish to express my gratitude to all of you for the achievements throughout the United Nations Vienna-based Organizations.

I wish to say a few words and sincerely thank the members of the Group and our distinguished guests for the support I have received throughout the year.

I would like to pay special tribute to my core team behind our Group's accomplishments.

In this regard, I specially wish to recognize all the G-77 Task Force Coordinators responsible for the different Organizations and thank their distinguished Ambassadors for kindly having released them to join me and my team during this year - and work for the common interests of our Group.

Their dedication, professionalism and outstanding hard work in convening task force meetings, drafting statements and in providing overall substantive support for the work of the Group, mainly contributed to our achievements. We convened a total of 107 group meetings.

In particular, let me now mention Ms. Ingrid Kirsten, from the Permanent Mission of South Africa on IAEA matters, Mr. Suhel Khan from the Permanent Mission of India and Mr. José Rosenberg from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador on UNIDO matters, and Ms. Maryem Haddaoui from the Permanent Mission of Morocco on CTBTO matters.

Allow me also to express my sincere gratitude to my hardworking team, Mr. Hellmut Lagos, who took over the task force coordination on IAEA matters, for the second half of 2015, Mr. Andrés Lamoliatte, task force coordinator on UNODC matters and Ms. Teresita Alvarez, task force coordinator on COPUOS matters.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the active and constructive collaboration of all delegations in the task force deliberations.

The dedicated work and diplomatic skills of our colleagues from the different Missions have allowed us to focus on the issues that are relevant to us and to remain as an important and influential multilateral Group that has been able to represent the interests of our developing countries in the different international organizations in Vienna, on a broad range of complex issues.

These topics pertain to five main areas or organizations: UNIDO, IAEA, UNODC, UNOOSA and CTBT. Each one of these entities is important for developing countries, and it is through the finding of common ground with our developed partners that we can increase our chances to succeed.

We have also engaged in productive and constructive discussions with other groups, without sacrificing our principles and without losing sight of our common objective, which is to promote the development and wellbeing of our citizens. In this sense, again in April 2015, the G-77 and the European Union met for the fourth time for their yearly political dialogue.

I do not pretend to describe the activities of the Group. In this regard, copies of a report are available at the back of the room.

As this is my final statement as the Chair of the G-77 and China, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to my colleagues from GRULAC, who have placed their trust in my country to fulfill this important duty.

My special gratitude also goes to UNIDO and DG LI Yong for the generous support in hosting the office of the Group for almost 18 years, to DDG Mr. Taizo Nishikawa, for financial support to the G77, and to Mrs. Fatou Haidara for her continuous support. Last but not least, I want to express my gratitude for the outstanding work performed by Mrs. Annemarie Heuls as Liaison Officer of the G-77 in Vienna.

Finally, I wish Ambassador Maruta and the Permanent Mission of Namibia success in this important responsibility and offer my personal commitment and collaboration in our common endeavor of promoting the interests and principles of our Group.

I thank you all.

Summary of activities:

On UNIDO, we would like to highlight that have a strong relation with this organization; We can say with satisfaction that UNIDO is again playing an important role in the international economic sector with a clear and concrete message on industrialization policies. The Group is fully committed in helping UNIDO, and his Director General, in its endeavor and we have worked closely to shape the sustainable industrial development in the Sustainable Development Goals post 2015. We will certainly have to further deepen this collaboration in the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda.

On IAEA matters, the main focus of G77 remains, as in the past, on broadening the scope and peaceful use of nuclear energy, and on technical cooperation and nuclear security. Nuclear security and nuclear safety are key concerns for all the countries and should continue being addressed in a balanced manner. Regarding technical cooperation, it is important to continue to improve the rate of attainment and to secure the proper funding of these activities. We therefore have shown appreciation to the efforts of the Director General aimed at strengthening the Due Account Mechanism, and have expressed our concern about the possible effects of some of the possible amendments to the current guidelines for its application. We will certainly need to continue to work on this issue this year, in order to find a way forward that can both strengthen the existing mechanism while taking into account our interests and concerns.

This is one of the IAEA we have been working on, in a very intense year. I would also highlight our contribution to the General Conference, presenting a large number of draft resolutions, which were all adopted by consensus. This was made possible by the active participation and hard work of delegations of our Group in the process, including some complex negotiations with the other Groups.

On CTBTO, the Group has stressed the important function of the Capacity Building and Technical Cooperation and its continuing role for monitoring and verification as may be applicable to State Signatories, and reaffirmed the importance of all efforts taken to promote the universalization and entry into force of the CTBT. This year we commemorate the 20th anniversary of this Treaty and we will continue to insist in that urgent priority.

With regard to UNODC matters, there are many issues that are important for the G77. First, the group actively participated in the discussions on the world drug problem, which remains a matter of great concern that must be addressed under the principle of common and shared responsibility from a comprehensive and balanced approach within the three conventions.

Regarding the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Doha, Qatar, the opportunity served to Group to make an intervention which encompassed all issues that falls under the scope of the UNODC. The Group actively participated in the CCPCJ, and in the negotiations aimed to have a possible review mechanism in UNTOC. Furthermore, the Group was active in the process of adopting the resolutions at UNCAC Conference of St. Petersburg, but also sponsored two resolutions.

On UNOOSA, we reinstalled the task force on COPUOS Matters, with the aim of making our Group present and active in the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), based on the need for our countries to have more access to opportunities for international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and uses of outer space, as well as on the fundamental need to ensure equal access to outer space, especially for developing countries.

We are of the view that this Task Force should continue working with the purpose of promoting international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space as well as addressing matters related to space affairs that have great impact on the development of nations. We firmly believe that international cooperation on space activities should be enhanced and expanded in order to promote all aspects of the peaceful utilization of outer space and to improve the on-going and future activities in this area with the a view to contributing to both the global social and economic prosperity and sustainable development, particularly for developing countries, and this is an area where the work of the G77 and China is pivotal.