

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



STATEMENT

BY

H.E. SIMON MADJUMO MARUTA

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

G77 AND CHINA, VIENNA CHAPTER

CHAIRMANSHIP

24 FEBRUARY 2017,

VIENNA, AUSTRIA.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome;

H.E Reza NAJAFI , Permanent Representative of Islamic Republic of Iran

H.E. Mr. Yury Fedotov Director-General of UNOV

H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano: Director General of the IAEA

H.E. Dr. Lassina Zerbo: CTBTO

H.E. Mr. Li Yong: UNIDO

Member States of the Group of 77 and China of the Vienna Chapter, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentleman.

Firstly I would like to congratulate the incoming Chair, H.E Ambassador Reza NAJAFI , Permanent Representative of Islamic Republic of Iran, on his nomination. I wish you well for the year ahead. You may rely on the Troika to assist you where necessary to navigate the Group through negotiations.

When I took over on the 11 February 2016, I promised to have a consultative Chairmanship and established the Troika in consultation with the Vienna Chapter of the Group of 77 and China. The establishment of a Troika was done with the intention to ease and involve all regional groups. During 2016 the Troika consisted of Chile (as the outgoing chair), Namibia and the Philippines (on behalf of the incoming regional group). Secondly, to engage all the Permanent Representatives at the level of Plenary meetings and to this end more than 10 plenary meeting were held. The third goal was to have a retreat for all Heads of Mission of the Regional Groups. This did not materialize due to time and financial constraints.

During 2016, 103 G77 and China meetings were held at Ambassadorial and expert level these include. I would also like to thank my task force leaders for a job well done. It is through your concerted efforts and dedication that 2016 was such a successful year for the Group.

Mr. Andrés LAMOLIATTE Vargas from Chile: UNIDO, Mr. Deepak OJAH from India: IAEA, Mr. Haytham DIAB from Egypt: UNODC, Ms. Laura María de Lourdes from Argentina: COPOUS and Ms. Ms. Luz Melon from the Permanent Mission of Argentina: CTBTO. Your dedication and diplomatic skills with colleagues from the different Missions has allowed the Group to focus on the

issues that are relevant to us and to remain an influential multilateral Group that is able to represent the interests of our developing countries in Vienna, on a broad range of complex issues.

May I take this opportunity to reflect back upon the eventful 2016 and draw on some of the milestones achieved.

It is the 50th Anniversary of UNIDO that I would like to pay homage to in particular, coming from a developing country and the work of the Group of 77 and China and reaffirming that it is through, “to the constructive engagement and continuing support of UNIDO and, while recognizing the important mandates and indispensable role of UNIDO as the key driver in supporting developing countries in achieving the goal of ISID, stand ready to working closely with UNIDO towards achieving the SDGs in 2030 and beyond.” This quotation is taken from the statement I delivered during the Opening Session of the celebration.

To this end I would also like to thank UNIDO for securing the G-77 Office for the last 19 years and for releasing Mrs. Annemarie Heuls as the G-77 Focal Point for all Vienna-based UN Organizations. Her experience and good working relations with all the delegations is invaluable to the success of this Chapter.

In 2016 the IAEA celebrated its 60th Anniversary and During the 60th Regular Session of the General Conference the Group tabled 7 Draft Resolutions namely,
1. Strengthening of the Agency’s technical cooperation activities
2. General part non-power nuclear applications
3. Support to the African Union’s Pan Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC)
4. Development of the sterile insect technique for the control or eradication of malaria-, dengue- and other disease-transmitting mosquitoes;
5. Strengthening the support to Member States in food and agriculture
6. Renovation of the Agency’s Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf
7. Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactors

It was the 20th Anniversary of the CTBTO, congratulations on the excellent manner in which the High Level session on the 20th Anniversary of the Treaty was conducted. During the 46th Session of the Preparatory Commission, the Group noted that all recent ratifications of the Treaty, standing at this point at 166, as well as requests to participate as Observers have come from developing countries, and are each a step forward in the process of bringing the CTBT to its much-desired universal status.

During the 59th Session of the COPOUS, I informed the meeting that “The Group of 77 and China underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration of the Outer Space shall be carried out with exclusively peaceful purposes, for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and in conformity with the body of international law applicable.

In line with this, it reiterates its strict adherence to the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of Outer Space, including;

- A) Universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development as well as the equitable and rational use of the Outer Space for the benefit of all mankind.
- B) The principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, which cannot be appropriated by any State, by claiming sovereignty, use, occupation or any other form.
- C) The commitment by States to the strict use of outer space for peaceful purposes.
- D) The non-militarization of outer space, which shall never be used for the installation of weapons of any kind, and as a common heritage of mankind, its strict use for the improvement of living conditions and peace among peoples that inhabit our planet.
- E) International cooperation in the development of space activities.”

Your Excellencies, Colleagues in conclusion I would just like to mention that in 2016, Namibia for the first time took the helm of G77 and China as Chair of the Vienna Chapter, since the commencement of G77 in Vienna in 1998.

Last but not least, considering the new emerging geopolitical landscape that tries to undermine the Multilateral diplomacy, we should guide against it and stand together, to defend and protect the multilateral diplomacy at all United Nations forums and as a Group.

I thank you.