



**Meeting of the Chairs of G-77 Chapters**  
*May 27, 2013 in C-5 (C-building 7<sup>th</sup> floor)*

**Statement by the Chairman of the Group of 77 Vienna Chapter, H.E.  
Ambassador Mahmoud Hassan Elamin, Permanent Representative of  
Sudan, on the occasion of the 44<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Chairmen/Coordinators of  
the Group of 77 on 27 May 2013 in Vienna, Austria**

Ambassador Peter Thomson, Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York  
Chairmen and Coordinators of the Group of 77,  
Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director General of UNIDO,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Vienna Chapter of the Group of 77, it is a great pleasure for us to welcome you to the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chairpersons/Coordinators of the Group of 77. I wish to thank Ambassador Thomson and the Chapter Chairpersons/Coordinators of the Group of 77 for graciously accepting the invitation of the Vienna Chapter to host this meeting one day prior to Vienna Energy Forum.

I would like also to thank Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director General of UNIDO for his kind offer to host this meeting which considered to be the second meeting hosted by UNIDO in addition to its continuous support to the Group since the 80's resulted in 1998 to establish the Permanent Liaison Office for the Chair of the G-77 Vienna Chapter and since then, has facilitated the dialogue and political coordination among the Group chapters (Vienna, Rome, Paris, New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Washington.)

We attach great importance to this coordination of G-77 Chapters meetings, as it comes just before the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Group which needs looking back to history in depth to explore the bright future prospects for the Group. We seize this opportunity to present to you some ideas and proposals on how we can make use of this Golden Anniversary to enhance cooperation and good communication among the Group Chapters that will be in due course according to the scheduled agendas of our today's meeting.

## **Activities of Vienna Chapter**

The Vienna Chapter is very active and deeply engaged in the activities of all the Vienna-based organizations to advocate and to make sure that their regular programs are devoted to the sustainable development and to meet the priorities and the real need of the developing countries, as well as consider increasing allocation of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation in deferent fields.

Vienna Chapter covers all the Vienna-based organizations, namely: UNIDO, IAEA, UNODC, and the preparatory Commission for CTBT. An average of 150-170 coordination meetings take place during each year.

The Group regularly engages on a regular basis with the European Union and with other regional Groups regarding all Vienna-based organizations. Like previous years, in 2012 too, the meeting with the EU provided an opportunity to discuss and share perspectives on important issues. Such a dialogue eventually leads to the so called Vienna Spirit, which prevails in this city.

## **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO):**

### **UNIDO and the Group of 77**

- The Group of 77 represents the critical mass of UNIDO, in political terms and for cooperation delivery.
- Due its clear and specialized mandate, UNIDO has provided an outstanding support to all members of the Group and has also been a platform to strengthen national and regional capacities and to promote North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Industrialization remains as a key driver for economic growth; sustainable industrial development is the challenge for a more prosper and inclusive economy for all. Under this premise, it's clear that UNIDO has an important role to play for the definition and implementation of a new development agenda.
- This role was highlighted in the latest Resolution on Industrial cooperation, which was the result of a positive coordination between chapters in Vienna and New York.

### **UNIDO's current agenda**

Three issues define the current juncture of UNIDO

- **Future of UNIDO**

In 2011, the United Kingdom, one of the main contributors to UNIDO, announced its withdrawal of the Organization. Along with the financial

concerns associated to this departure, several questions were raised, regarding the role and relevance of UNIDO for development and its effectiveness as provider of cooperation.

An Informal Working Group (IWG) was established to discuss these issues as well as the future of UNIDO and its financial situation; its outcome, in the form of a strategic guidance document, shall be presented to the 15th General Conference in December 2013.

The Group of 77 has had an active role in the discussions held in the Informal Working Group, which has reached so far, a draft document that among others:

- Reiterates the validity of UNIDO's mandate and its core activities
- Clarifies thematic priorities for the Organization
- Management criteria to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and visibility of UNIDO

This last issue is of the utmost importance, and for its full achievement, the support of all G-77 chapters becomes relevant.

Discussions within the Informal Working Group has been somehow affected by the recent and unexpected announcement of France's withdraw. There's particular concern that this decision has a 'domino effect' that for example, precipitate the decision the Netherlands is considering about leaving the Organization.

In this regard, the Vienna Chapter could also request a permanent support of other chapters, particularly New York, to establish a permanent dialogue with relevant members of UNIDO and former States in order for them to consider their return to the Organization and or, to contribute to its activities.

Engagement with European Union and other regional groups, as mentioned in the introductory part.

- **Financial constrains**

The decisions made in the last two years by Lithuania, New Zealand and the United Kingdom and by France in 2013, had affected UNIDO's financial provisions for the full realization of its mandate and to respond to the increase demand for cooperation.

During the discussion of the budget proposed for the biennium 2014 - 2015, Member States noticed there are expenses that based on decisions from the United Nations in New York, limit the capacity of the Organization for savings. Among them, the contributions to the Resident Coordinator, criteria for travels, salaries and benefits for personnel.

Since many members of the Group of 77 and China have seen an increase in their contributions to the United Nations, coordination among Chapters could facilitate the adoption of financial decisions with less impact on organizations like UNIDO and in accordance to their functions.

Regarding the financial situation of UNIDO, it would be important to highlight that the United States still owes the significant amount of 69 million €, since its withdraw in 1996. The support of the Group's Chapter in New York could be relevant to approach this country and discuss this matter.

- **Elections of the DG**

Due the early departure of the Director General, Dr. Kandeh Yumkella, elections will be held during the 41st Industrial Development Board in June.

Five out of seven candidates are from Members of the Group: Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, Libya and Thailand. This is a clear sign of the commitment of the Group with the Organization.

### **United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC):**

\*Activities of the G77 for 2013: UNODC matters

- ✓ **The 56<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs:**

- The Group has sponsored 7 resolutions related to the ongoing efforts to combat the world drug problem.
- On FINGOV matters, The Group had welcomed the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of two resolutions related to the standing open-ended intergovernmental Working Group on Improving the Governance and Financial Situation.
- The Group of 77 and China hopes that the working group, through its renewed mandate, provides for concrete steps in appropriately addressing fragile financial situation as well as governance gaps of UNODC.

- ✓ **22<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice:**

- The Commission has adopted a resolution tabled by the G77+China entitled “Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking”
- In this resolution, the Commission wishes to recognize the indispensable role of crime prevention and criminal justice responses in combating all forms and aspects of trafficking in cultural property and related offences in a comprehensive and effective manner.
- The resolution also addresses issues such as data analysis, prevention and criminalization of trafficking in cultural property, protection of cultural property, encouraging international cooperation and technical assistance as well as specific guidelines for crime prevention and criminal justice responses with respect to trafficking in cultural property and the model treaty.

- ✓ **Conference of States Parties to the UNCAC (5<sup>th</sup> session in Panama)**
- The Group looks forward the holding of the next session of Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption that will be held in Panama in November 2013. The group will continue to defend its position on important issues such as assets recovery and prevention.

Engagement with European Union and other regional groups, as mentioned in the introductory part.

### **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):**

#### **IAEA Board of Governors meetings:**

The Board of Governors held its regular meetings in March, June, September and November. In these meetings the Board took stock of Agency's activities in areas of its competence such as nuclear safety and security, nuclear energy, nuclear applications, safeguards and technical cooperation. The Group's statement conveyed its common position on all of these and was able to put across its point of view effectively and secure its interests successfully.

#### **56<sup>th</sup> General Conference (September 2012)**

The 2012 GC had a unique distinction for the Group. The Conference and its Committee of the Whole were chaired by the members of the Group, Uruguay and Saudi Arabia respectively. The Group sponsored resolutions on Technical Cooperation and on Agency's activities in non-power applications. All of these resolutions were adopted with consensus.

Engagement with European Union and other regional groups, as mentioned in the introductory part.

#### **Other activities:**

A number of briefings were arranged for the members of the Group to better acquaint them with important issues and activities of the Agency. These included:

- Informal brainstorming meeting with Ms. Alicia Reynaud, Section Head Department of Safeguards with G-77 to enhance developing countries' representation in the Department of Safeguards
- Informal brainstorming, preparatory to the meeting with the facilitators of the consultations on the Programme and Budget and TCF targets for 2014-15, on 16 April 2013 on the Programme and Budget and Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) targets for 2014-15
- Informal briefing with Mr. Khammar Mrabit, Director, Office of Nuclear Security on the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, 1-5 July 2013

- Informal briefing with Mr. Rolando Camacho, Action Section Head, PACT Programme – on the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT)

### **Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO):**

#### A) Working Group A

- 27-29 May 2013
- Request the PTS to take into account of a more balanced geographical representation within the PTS

#### B) Preparatory Commission

- 13-14 June 2013
- New Executive Secretary from the G-77 (Burkina Faso)

#### C) Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article XIV Conference)

- 27 September in New York 2013
- There will be rounds of open-ended informal consultations to consider the draft Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the CTBT, which will be agreed in Vienna before the Conference
- Engagement with European Union and other regional groups, as mentioned in the introductory part.

### **Cooperation and coordination G-77 and China Chapters**

- As I mentioned earlier in my opening remarks there is an urgent need for a coordination and strong cooperation between the different chapters of the G77.
- The coordination should be focused on the positions of the Group regarding important issues on main subjects of the United Nations system agenda.
- The Group of 77 in Vienna proposes that a group of senior diplomats of countries chairing the chapters of the Group of 77 meet online twice a year to evaluate the coordination is taking place on between the different chapters.

### **Issues to be shared with other Chapters:**

Identification of priority cross cutting issues among all Organizations that might require coordination of possessions for common interest (please see attachment Proposed Cross Cutting Issues for Coordination among G-77 Chapters - The Vienna Perspective)

- Contributions from all Chapters to the annual Ministerial declaration of the Group.

**Mechanism, how to share issues:**

- This coordination could be made possible via a mechanism that will allow the chapters to interact and exchange information either by updating the websites of each chapter or by electronic communication (email, social media such as Facebook, chat function, etc).
- Video conferences on cross-cutting issues on a regular basis
- Monthly newsletter on the main activities of each Organization, to be distributed among members of the Group and the UN membership. The newsletter should highlight the main contributions/positions/events/achievements of the G-77
- Updating of websites – news flash on main G-77 website indicating highlights of the various G-77 Chapters (top news)
- Quarterly telecommunications among the Task Force Coordinators of the various chapters focusing on special topics of common interest and relevance – to enhance cooperation among the Chapters

**\*Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the G-77:**

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a historical juncture for the Group and as I mentioned in my opening remarks it would be very sound if we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a way that reflects the uniqueness of this Group and the rich history which started on 15th June 1964, when 77 developing countries issued a Joint Declaration during the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held in Geneva. The Joint Declaration summarizes the *raison d'être* of the Group and sets out the members' common objectives in the field of trade, economic and development. The birth of the Group is one of the most significant political phenomenon of mid-20th century. For the first time, the marginalized nations found a common voice in defending their interests and promoting greater equity and justice in international relations.

The G-77 adopted its Charter on the occasion of its first Ministerial Meeting held in Algiers, Algeria on 25 October 1967, and subsequently developed its institutional structure, which led to the creation of Chapters of the Group in New York, Geneva, Nairobi, Paris, Rome, Vienna and Washington DC.

Bearing in mind these decades of unity and solidarity we should have to keep the momentum and make sure that the new emerging challenges will not negatively impact the core objectives of the Group. In connection to that we propose the following for celebration:

- A theme of common interest should be identified for all G-77 Chapters: for example (Opportunities and Challenges of the G-77 in the Post 2015 development agenda); Relevance of the G-77 after 50 years.
- Each G-77 Chapter should have their own celebration in June 2014 in their respective Chapter.
- The Group proposes that a Summit or a ministerial meeting could be held in September 2014 in New York, before the start of the General Assembly, or in any country who volunteers to host the event.
- Within the individual celebrations in June, it is proposed to have a substantive session (round table on the role of the G-77 in enhancing sustainable development in the past, present and future, moreover how to enhance cooperation among the chapters in the future with an evaluation of the activities undertaken.
- A part from the substantive session, a cultural can be organized (G-77 Member States could provide food, drinks and/or artifacts, performances etc., photo contest could be organized, photo exhibition in a Bazaar ...).
- Keep the commitment of holding the chapters Coordination meeting at least annually.

## **Proposed Cross Cutting Issues for Coordination among G-77 Chapters - The Vienna Perspective:**

**UNIDO, possible cross cutting issues** for follow up among different chapters are:

- Poverty eradication
- Energy for productive issues

Other general topics are:

- Post2015 development agenda
- South - south cooperation
- Budget issues that affect all organizations, such as guidelines and policies of the International Civil Servant Commission and Resident Coordinator
- QCPR

The Group can provide inputs on **IAEA related matters** pertaining to:

Agency's technical cooperation activities,  
Agency's activities in the field of nuclear safety and nuclear security,  
Developments in nuclear technology,  
Programme and budget  
Power and non-power nuclear applications (in the field of human health, food safety, animal health, crop, soil and water management etc)

### **Good Governance within the UN**

Questions related to the UNODC mandates:

- Transnational Organized Crime:
- Protection of Cultural Property
- Cybercrime
- Terrorism prevention
- Migration and human trafficking

### **CTBTO**

Consultations of Ratifying States and States Signatories on facilitating the Entry Into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty preparations for the Article XIV Conference