

G-77 Handover Ceremony on 14 February 2013
Statement by H.E. Ambassador Antonio García, Permanent Representative
of Peru and Chairman of the G-77 Vienna Chapter for 2012

Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues and friends,

Let me first thank all of you for being here this morning, I also wish to particularly welcome the Executive Heads and their Representatives of UNIDO, IAEA, CTBTO and UNODC to be present in this important ceremony.

It was a great honor for my country and for me to have had the opportunity to chair the Group during 2012, in this context I wish to make a quick overview and assessment of the work undertaken during Peru's Chairmanship of 2012.

The Group has been very active during last year, and I gave particular focus on regular contact and brainstorming sessions with the G-77 Task Force Coordinators, and entrusted them to hold consultations with their respective delegations to elaborate positions and find innovative ways to strengthen the political message and the positions of our Group through a more focused and less technical approach. It has always been my conviction that our positions should be respected and taken into account, and our concrete proposals should be the heart of our interventions. Furthermore, the regular contact and meetings with the G-77 Task Force Coordinators and briefing sessions on particular issues with the relevant Secretariats, as well as consultations, with other regional groups enhanced my approach and I strongly encourage the continuation of this method of work.

I wish to flag a few specific issues, which were relevant on the work achieved during last year's activities.

UNIDO:

First of all I wish to thank UNIDO for hosting the G-77 Vienna Chapter since its creation in 1998 and for supporting the Group by providing us with its valuable Secretariat.

I wish to thank the Task Force Coordinator, Ms. Jeanne Mrad from Lebanon for her dedication and hard work during 2012.

One of the most important items on the agenda of the G-77 Task Force on UNIDO matters was the "Working Group on the future of UNIDO", which is Co-Chaired by Ambassador Dengo of Costa Rica and Alberto Groff from Switzerland. The active discussion and brainstorming among the Task Force

members in the framework of the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis process undertaken by the working group on the future of UNIDO resulted in four G-77 and China consolidated documents that were submitted consecutively to the co-chairs of the working group. The Group actively contributed in the preparation of the pertained to the SWOT analysis. It was not particularly easy to come up with one list of cross-cutting views in this regard. Nevertheless, this opened the door wide for a constructive in-depth discussion that touched upon almost all the areas of work inside UNIDO. The G-77 will keep this momentum of work and involvement for the next phase, that we consider as transitional and historic in the life of UNIDO and the Group is keen that the efforts deployed so far will be converted into a strategic document that should be a roadmap for a prosperous future of the Organization.

Peru is very proud to host the fifteenth session of the UNIDO General Conference in December of this year. It is the first time after 20 years that the GC will be hosted outside Headquarters, and more over in a country of our Group. Almost 40 years after the last Lima Conference in 1975, that produced the most important political document in the history of UNIDO, which is the “Lima Declaration”. The G-77 members should work on a new Lima Declaration and a Plan of Action, capable of putting industry back in the center of the post 2015 development agenda, positioning UNIDO in the international system and contributing to the Rio + 20 process.

As a biannual practice and after close cooperation with the G-77 New York Chapter, the Group has elaborated a draft resolution for submission to the General Assembly on the “Industrial Development Cooperation”, which was adopted in early December.

After the adoption of the General Conference Resolution GC.14/Res.7, and after several efforts made during my Chairmanship, the Group was able to reactivate the Multilateral Diplomatic Committee. In this context, I am very pleased to inform that the Committee has already held several meetings so far.

An important milestone for UNIDO will be the election of the new Director-General, which will take place during the IDB in June 2013 and hoping that the Group will maintain its unity in keeping the practice of having a DG from our region.

IAEA:

On IAEA matters, first of all I wish to thank the Task Force Coordinators Ms. Heba Negm from Egypt for her commitment and outstanding work as G-77 Task Force Coordinator and wish her all the best for her future endeavors, as

well as my collaborator Bernardo Roca-Rey who took over as Task Force Coordinator for the rest of the year.

As far as the work of the Group on IAEA matters was concerned, it has been the first time that the Group was able to deliver a common statement on Nuclear Safety during the last June Board and followed in the November Board.

During the last IAEA General Conference, the Group brought forward six draft resolutions, which have been adopted. Of particular importance was the new concept of the Technical Cooperation resolution, which reemphasized the paramount importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme, as the main statutory vehicle for the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Technical Cooperation Programme is a shared responsibility and it is a result of combined efforts of the technical Departments, the Department of Technical Cooperation and the Member States themselves, despite the difficulties encountered by the linkage with the negotiation of other resolutions, this year's TC resolution resulted in a more structured and leaner way, which will certainly facilitate its implementation and will benefit the countries of our Group.

UNODC:

On UNODC matters, I wish to thank Ms. Julia Villatoro from El Salvador and Ms. Mila Francisco of Chile for their dedication and exceptional work carried out during last year and also wish them all the best in their work ahead.

In the first 6 months, the Group has elaborated a Non-paper on the Proposal for the Organization of the round table discussions at the 56th period of sessions of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs (CND). The Group engaged in a very constructive dialogue with other regional groups and received briefings by the Secretariat.

However, the Group did not even present one draft resolution, neither in the 55th CND, nor during the 21st session of the Commission of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), while other regional groups already arrived at formal sessions united with several resolutions. This undermines the credibility and weight of our Group towards the rest of the international community. We should therefore try in the future to find consensus around resolutions presented by countries of our Group, before its submission. I therefore encourage the Group to come up with resolutions for the Commissions and share them on time.

Regarding the work of the task force during the second half of the year, the Group was actively engaged in the negotiations of the terms of reference for a mechanism to review the implementation of the UNTOC Convention which, as we know, could not be adopted during this session of the Conference. However,

the Group remains being a decisive actor in this process and I encourage to continue holding that position.

Furthermore, the Group elaborated a set of recommendations on Cultural Property, which were endorsed by the COP - UNTOC. In order to follow up that process and with the aim to push forward this important issue for the Group of 77, an informal working group was established within the Task Force. This informal working Group is being entrusted with the task to prepare and advance G-77 positions on cultural property for the next CCPCJ.

Finally, regarding FINGOV, the task force held several meetings on this matter, organized a briefing by the Secretariat, elaborated a position paper and is participating in the negotiation process for the renewal of the mandate of the FINGOV by the CND and the adoption of recommendations. I would like here to highlight the fact that FINGOV is the only mechanism the Group has, to get involved in the working process of the UNODC and to influence it. I know that FINGOV is known as being rather boring, but it is our creation and it has been our decision to keep it alive. Therefore, I appeal to you, to get more involved in FINGOV and make all changes necessary to make it more suitable to our interests. Appealing presentations are not going to fall from heaven, we should request them, and transform the way FINGOV is working, we should see it as a tool through which our Group can considerably improve its stands towards the Office and consequently towards donors.

CTBTO:

The excellent work carried out by the Task Force Coordinator, Ms. Ilse Adonis from South Africa deserves also a special mention and the achievements obtained as far as CTBTO matters are concerned, are relevant. The Group's statements became more focused and targeted at addressing the key issues and getting the message across in shorter statements.

The G-77 and China accomplished to play a key role in the appointment process of the Executive Secretary which for the first time since the inception of the Organisation is a representative from a developing country.

In addition, the hosting of the Integrated Field Exercise (IFE)¹⁴ by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 2014 is another success for the Group of 77 and China as it ensured balanced presentation by candidate countries. It was further acknowledged by States Signatories that it was important for such an exercise to be held in different regions/environments to simulate a realistic scenario for such a large scale exercise.

The number of task leaders from developing countries in Working Group B has increased from one to three during the last year. In addition, the pilot project

which was aimed at funding the participation of experts from developing countries in Working Group B meetings was extended for an additional three years. The pilot project provides the Group the opportunity to build capacity of national experts in particular for the monitoring stations hosted by the countries.

There are still concerns that persist in the work of the Group, such as the low attendance of task force meetings and a lack of capacity in Missions to engage in/attend meetings of the policy making organs and that there is not enough engagement with the Secretariat.

The staffing within in the Secretariat is still highly skewed towards developed countries. In this regard, the G-77 and China should be more proactive within their own countries that when vacancies become available within the Secretariat to encourage their nationals to apply.

In my view, a way forward is the continuation in engaging with the Secretariat to provide capacity building opportunities for experts from developing countries.

Encourage the engagement of national experts in the upcoming Science and Technology Conference to be held in June 2013.

Finally, it is therefore of utmost importance that the high level of attendance during the Group meetings be maintained and delegations continue to participate actively in the process.

I don't want to end my Chairmanship without mentioning Annemarie Heuls, the cornerstone of our Group. Her competence, calm and dedication contributed to the smooth preparation and coordination of the activities of the Group. She has acted close to me not only on her duties as Secretariat of the G-77 but also as an advisor to many substantive and delicate issues that came out during 2012.

I wish to thank all of you for your cooperation and solidarity and having worked closely with me during 2012.