



VIENNA, 11 September 2018 - The 20th anniversary of the establishment of G-77 Vienna Chapter has been marked by a ceremony during which His Excellency, Carlos Játiva, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ecuador, Chair of the Group, unveiled a commemorative plaque in the Vienna International Centre.

The Group of 77 is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries within United Nations, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity. The organization has expanded to 134 member countries.

The office of G-77 Vienna Chapter was inaugurated on 19 May 1998 by Carlos Margariños, then the Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The Chapter has serviced all Vienna-based organizations (VBOs) by providing administrative support to the members. It serves as institutional memory of the Group's activities and represents an effective link for better coordination, communication, and cooperation between the VBOs and the Group.

During the ceremony, the Chair of the Group underlined that as the body that accounts for more than two-thirds of the world population, the G77 commits today to contribute to the strengthening of a more democratic, sustainable and equitable world, with increasingly horizontal power relations. This pledge –said- is even more pertinent as we acknowledge that progress with respect to structural transformation, employment and distributional outcomes has been uneven, and in some cases, has even experienced a reversal.

Heads of Mission and delegates of G-77 countries and other regional groups as well as high-level officials from all the VBOs attended the ceremony. UNIDO Director General, LI Yong; Yuri Fedotov, Director General of UNOV and Executive Director of UNODC; Mary Alice Hayward, acting Director General of the IAEA and Wang Xiaoning, Director of Legal and External Relations Division at the CTBTO expressed their appreciation of the Chapter's activities.

UNIDO supports the office of the Vienna Chapter by providing an external relations officer. In his statement, Director General LI Yong emphasized the importance of the cooperation between UNIDO and the G-77 based on the common commitment to sustainable development. He said "the Group's vision, reflected by the commitment to sustainable economic development is equally deeply incorporated in the heart of UNIDO." Adding to the positive remarks concerning past and present cooperation, LI underlined UNIDO's pledge to continuing its support for the Vienna Chapter.

In a message of congratulations, read on his behalf by Ambassador WANG Qun, the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China WANG Yi praised the Vienna Chapter for its important role as a platform for developing countries to engage in multilateral affairs.