

**REMARKS OF
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AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
PHILIPPINES**

**ASSUMPTION OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE
GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA -- VIENNA CHAPTER
16 JULY 2014**

**Excellencies
Distinguished colleagues,**

To chair the Group of 77 and China is a great honor for the Philippines. The Philippines has always been committed to the ideals and principles of this venerable institution. It is therefore with pride and humility, as well as with a great sense of responsibility, that I accept the trust you have given me in promoting the collective interests of the Group for the second half of the year 2014.

Allow me at the outset to pay tribute to the excellent work undertaken by the distinguished Ambassador of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez and his team. Ambassador Azeez' several initiatives in commemorating this year's fiftieth anniversary of our Group have shown the Vienna international community a celebration of our solidarity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Annemarie Heuls for her dedicated, vigorous and outstanding support for the effective and efficient functioning of the Group.

Distinguished colleagues,

As we represent over half of the world's population and more-than two thirds of the entire United Nations membership, the Group of 77 and China has been an important actor in the pursuit of a world order that is just, equitable, peaceful and stable. The Declaration of the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Bolivia last June invites all of us to continue and intensify our efforts in defending and promoting the interests of developing countries.

I intend to continue the path set out by previous Chairs of the Group, primarily by working closely with all of you in engaging with all Vienna-based organizations and other delegations.

UNIDO has been a close partner of the Group of 77 and China. We welcome the inclusion of ISID or inclusive and sustainable industrial development as a stand-alone focus area in the on-going deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda. It is of great interest to our Group that UNIDO's activities in the pursuit of ISID, must remain

coherent with the developing countries' needs and demands for industrial development. The Group played a pivotal role in the negotiation and adoption of the Lima Declaration at the 15th General Conference in Peru. We have to sustain such strong collective voice in the deliberations on the ways to operationalize through UNIDO the ISID strategies and policies.

In the IAEA, The Technical Cooperation Programme of the IAEA, with its promotion of the peaceful application of nuclear energy and technology, such as in human health, food and agriculture, water and environment, contributes significantly to the attainment of our countries' economic and social objectives. We will therefore continue supporting the Agency in promoting the widest possible dissemination of nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes, while at the same time ensuring the necessary balance between promotional and other statutory activities. The Group will sustain its constructive participation in the Working Group on Financing the Agency's Activities, as well as in the 58th Session of the General Conference of the Agency this September.

In CTBTO, we will continue to support strong efforts in promoting the entry into force of the Treaty and ensuring the widest possible participation of developing countries in CTBTO programmes and activities.

In UNODC. The global nature of transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and other crimes continue to demand coordinated global action based on shared and common responsibility. Hence, our Group's emphasis within UNODC on the provision of technical assistance for capacity building of our human resources and institutions with the end view of fighting these crimes that hinder our social and economic development. The Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime or UNTOC this October, including the Working Group on Technical Assistance, is another opportunity for the Group to engage other delegations on additional and enhanced avenues for improving the capacity of States to combat transnational organized crime.

Distinguished colleagues,

The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of our Group continues until the end of 2014. We will prepare the possible next series of activities.

Part of this celebration is the enhancement of our working arrangement to further consolidate our Group. I commend the Task Forces and the Task Force leaders who have been performing their respective functions in an outstanding manner. I intend to continue the practice of regular consultations with the Task Force Leaders.

Consultations at all levels is of paramount importance. Hence, I also intend to have consultations with you, complemented with consultations with the Regional Groups, on matters such as:

- 1. The Troika system. The meeting in Geneva of the Chairs of G77 and China talked of nomination of a Troika throughout the G77 and China Chapters: having a Chair and two Vice-Chairs representing the former Chair and the incoming Chair. In elaborating how to implement the Troika system, I will consult with the Regional Groups.**
- 2. I will also consult on the proposal to establish working groups for consideration of issues for UNCITRAL, COPOUS and the MDC or Multilateral Diplomatic Committee.**
- 3. On approach to consensus-building. I believe that dialogue remains to be the best approach in consensus building. But there may be instances where we need to respect the diversity in our Group while preserving its integrity and effectiveness.**

Distinguished colleagues,

Let me conclude by thanking once again all of you for your trust. I wish to assure you all that my team and I will do all that is necessary to ensure our collective success. I will be faithful in pursuing your aspirations, tackling your concerns and defending your interests; doing all that with you as a team. I value and look forward to your support and guidance in carrying out my responsibility.

Thank you.