

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. SIMON MADJUMO MARUTA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**G77 AND CHINA, VIENNA CHAPTER
CHAIRMANSHIP**

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I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the presence of the Heads of Vienna based UN Organisations

H.E. Mr. LI Yong: Director General of UNIDO

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

H.E. Dr. Lassina Zerbo: Executive Secretary of CTBTO

Mr. Aldo Lale-Demoz: Deputy Executive Director and UNODC Director of Division for operations.

Member States of the Group of 77 and China of the Vienna Chapter, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Firstly I would like to congratulate my predecessor, H.E. Ambassador Armin Andereya, Permanent Representative of Chile, on a job well done and his ability to navigate the Group through some tough negotiations during his tenure.

I would also like to thank the African Group for its confidence in my country Namibia, and myself to represent Africa in the task that lies ahead. To this end I would like to call on all the other regional groups to rally their support behind the Vienna Chapter of the Group of 77 and China.

Almost 52 Years ago G-77 Member States came together in Geneva, to be exactly, on 15 June 1964, during the UNCTAD Conference, with the purpose to promote equality in the International Economic and Social order and promote the interests of developing States. The idea is to promote South-South cooperation center on solidarity among Member States.

One of the initial mandates of the Group was to accentuate the trade and development related issues but the focus has since evolved, today, it is a successful lobby group within the UN Structures.

In tandem with UN charter gears towards achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character and promoting and encouraging respect for human rights.

Many Member States agree with these principal of solidarity and cooperation among South-South States. The Group Membership has tremendously grown from 77 States to 133 States. The Population of these states is estimated at 5.6 Billion or 78% of the entire world population. G-77 and China is a Group to be reckon with, our solidarity among Member States should be respected and be recognised among all Member States of the UN. The Institutions of International Multilateral Cooperation should reflect on this reality, its genuine request.

In 2006, on 8-9 June during the Fourteenth Meeting of the Chairman/Coordinators of the G-77, we adopted the Vienna Spirit declaration which calls among other things:

1. We emphasised that the UN is premier International organisation and system, addressing sustainable development in its three components: economic development, social development and environment protection. Therefore our role should be strengthened to enable to cover the normative, analytical, policy and operational aspects of development.
2. The Vienna Spirit declaration also reaffirm and strongly support the roles and mandates of the United Nations humanitarian and development institutions and agencies, including in particular, UNIDO, UNCTAD, FAO, WFP, UNESCO, IFAD, UN-HABITA and UNEP.
3. It further captured and recognised that South-South cooperation has expanded as a response to global challenges, and creates a stronger voice for the countries of the South on the international arena. It has become an integral part of the Mutual relations between the developing countries and an important means of promoting the exchange of ideas, experience, knowledge, technical advances, skills and expertise across a broad range of sectors. There is a greater commitment from developing countries to support developments efforts in order to reach a new level of economic independence and collective self-reliance.

Those were some of the spirit of Vienna adopted in 2006, we need to revisit and find out how many of those targets has been achieved or realised, if not how can we make sure that ten years later the targets are achievable.

1. During my tenure as Chair, I intend to establish a Troika at the helm of the group as I believe this will ease negotiations on tough issues which we will encounter and ultimately ease the transition from one chair to the next. To give you example G77-Rome chapter consists of Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, Regional Chairs and Vice Chairs who are all appointed on rotational basis.
2. As you may gather, my intention is to have a more consultative Chairmanship and to this end I will call on all the Permanent Representatives to attend plenary meetings **if** and **when** they are scheduled. In holding plenaries we as a group will be able to strategize, plan and retain the spirit of the founding principles of the Group of 77 and China aim at consolidating our strength and unity of purpose.
3. We should also calling for retreat for all Permanent Representatives, to review our work and strengthen our solidarity not only when we agrees, but we should talk about talk, agreeing to disagrees and narrow the divergence of views.

In conclusion we:

- Should be seen to execute our multilateral diplomacy
- Must have epitome of principle,
- Should show boldness in Negotiating difficult topics, at the end we should always aim at reaching consensus.
- Should manage by objective, Result based management, always gear towards achieving our goals/result

With these few words I look forward to working as a team with all of you Permanent Representatives as well as the task force leaders, my door remains open to you at all times so we may have a successful term.

I thank you.