

Handover Ceremony
G-77 –Chairmanship (Vienna Chapter) February 14, 2013
delivered by H.E. Ambassador Mahmoud Hassan Elamin, Permanent
Representative of the Sudan and Chairman of the G-77 Vienna Chapter for 2013

Mr. Director General of UNIDO
Mr. Director General of the IAEA
Mr. Executive Secretary of the CTBTO
Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs of UNODC

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

It is an honour and privilege for my country and me personally to assume the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China for this Year 2013.

I would like at the outset to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the members of the African Group for their valuable support and endorsement as well as the entire membership of the Group of 77 and China for the confidence and trust reposed on my country to serve the group. There is no doubt it's a tremendous task and challenging duty which I take with deep sense of responsibility and commitment to defend the interests, values and aspirations of our group.

As I assume this high responsibility, allow me to pay a special tribute to our outgoing Chairman H.E. Ambassador Antonio Garcia for his outstanding stewardship of our Group in 2012 and his tireless efforts in advancing the interests of the Group and for the achievements made throughout his chairmanship.

Allow me also to express my appreciation for Heads of organizations and their representatives here present. Their presence among us today underscores our shared commitment and common mission and a reaffirmed testimony to the importance they attach to the activities of the Group of 77 and China.

Today, as my country is assuming this responsibility, our Group is 49 years old, since its inception in 1964, the underline rationale that inspired the creation of the Group has remained unchanged, rather it has become all the more pertinent and crucial. In confronting the great challenges of today, the Group is blessed with its potential along with its strong unity of purpose.

Our Agenda in 2013 is both challenging and extensive, as diverse as it is, it offers our group an opportunity to shape decisions and policies and secure its interests on critical issues guided by our common objectives and priorities. We are a group of 132 countries, our priorities might not be identical, but we definitely share this common commitment to a just and equitable international economic order, to advance South-South cooperation as one of the important pillars of our joint endeavors to promote international cooperation and development, I would like to reiterate our resolve to continue working with the Vienna based organizations to further consolidate and strengthen South-South Cooperation as a strategy to sustain the development efforts of the members of our Group. As we recall that the General Assembly of the United

Nations (in 2003) called upon on all the relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programs, and to consider increasing allocation of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives.

UNIDO is making great contribution in addressing South-South cooperation, in alleviating poverty, building and up grading industrial capacities for international competitiveness, greening the industry, creating employment especially for the youth and improving access to renewable energy for all. The Group will continue working with UNIDO to advance all this with the firm conviction that the organization possesses all the potential to help developing countries reach sustainable development, according to their respective national priorities.

This year is marked as an important year as we are heading towards the election of a new Director General for UNIDO. Although we are still few months away, permit me to take this opportunity to express on behalf of all the members of the Group our appreciation for you, Mr. Director General for your continued dedication and efforts in making the organization efficient, effective and relevant in today's industrial Agenda in the realm of Global crises and many significant regional developments.

Another significant event this year is that the coming UNIDO General Conference in December will take place in Peru, a country from the family of G-77 being the second time that Peru is hosting the General Conference after the one in 1975. We consider that holding the 15th Conference in Lima this year represents another opportunity to strengthen the strategic partnership with UNIDO.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Among the most important issues to address in relations to UNODC are the questions of illicit drugs trafficking, transnational organized crimes, corruption, and money laundering. An integrated and balanced approach based on the principle of shared responsibility is an essential component to tackle these challenges.

Needless to say that capacity building and technical assistance will be of great help in our endeavors to deal with the challenges facing us. It is of great importance that UNODC be provided with sufficient predictable and sustainable funding to enable it to provide the technical assistance required by member states.

This year we will be dealing with the issue of renewal of the mandate of the intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and the financial situation of UNODC (FINGOV), we will work with other member states for the renewal of the mandate of the working group having in mind the positive and complementary role FINGOV is playing in the governance of UNODC.

On IAEA matters, our group will continue to attach great importance to the technical cooperation programme of the Agency as the main statutory vehicle and an efficient tool for promoting nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries.

Of paramount importance to our group is the scientific application of nuclear technologies for peaceful uses, in human health, food and agriculture water and environment in energy and power. We will continue to support the Agency activities that strengthen global nuclear safety in order to positively contribute to the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

As for the CTBTO, it is for the first time that the next Executive Secretary will be a national from the Group of 77 and China , we will work with him and continue the already existing cooperation to build a fruitful partnership towards the effective disarmament and non-proliferation which constitute the letter and spirit of the Treaty. I would like also to take this opportunity to express gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated work of Executive Secretary Mr. Tibor Toth.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

In conclusion, I would like, once again, to assure you that we will continue to safeguard the interests of our group and consolidate the well-established values as we navigate through those challenging times. I am confident that the required cooperation, solidarity and guidance will be extended to me by all.

Thank you.