

## **Handover ceremony of the G-77 Vienna Chapter 2019**

### **Statement by Ms. Veronica Gómez, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Ecuador, Chairperson of the G-77 during 2018**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished colleagues

I have the pleasure to welcome the Member States of the Group of 77 and China to the handover ceremony of the G-77 Vienna Chapter 2019.

I also would like to welcome:

Mr. Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO  
Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of the IAEA  
Mr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO,  
Mr. Dennis Thatchaichawalit, Deputy Director-General of UNOV

Likewise, I appreciate the presence of Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary of UNCITRAL.

At the outset, let me congratulate the incoming Chair, H.E Ambassador Omar Amer Youssef, Permanent Representative of Egypt, on his nomination by the African Group to assume the Chairmanship of the G-77 for this year. I wish you all the best for this task. No need to say that your expertise and talent are the best assurances for striving towards greater achievements for our Group.

For my country it has been a great honor to serve the G-77 during 2018. Despite the exceptional circumstances that were presented by the departure of Ambassador Játiva, I would like to reiterate that both -he and I have committed all our efforts to represent the Group with passion and professionalism, promoting the interests and aspirations of its members.

In fulfilment of this task, I would like to express my special thanks to the distinguished Ambassadors of Algeria, Cuba, China, Egypt and Nigeria for their valuable assistance in various activities of the Group and for their support towards me.

In 2018, the Group held a total of 126 meetings on all matters relating to international organizations in Vienna: 55 on IAEA, 21 on UNIDO, 30 on UNODC, 12 on CTBTO, 6 on COPUOS and 2 on UNCITRAL. These meetings have helped to further consolidate the G-77 positions and to demonstrate that a more cooperative model can serve as a basis for reinvigorating development cooperation and the common purpose of strengthening our multilateral system, despite it being questioned as never before.

In this context, I would like to thank the task force coordinators for their excellent work done. Without their effort, dedication and diplomatic skills, our goals could not have been achieved. My deepest gratitude to Ms. Sharon Ho of Malaysia for UNIDO; Mr. Yahya Said from Egypt and

Charles Oko from Nigeria at the IAEA; Mr. Alvaro Salcedo from Peru at UNODC, Mr. Oualid Mahdaoui from Algeria at CTBTO and Mr. Mohammed Tafida from Nigeria at COPUOS.

Let me briefly reflect on last year's developments and achievements:

UNIDO adopted the resolution on the UN Development System reform, jointly co-sponsored by the G77 and China and the EU. The G77 also provided inputs for the resolution on Industrial Development Cooperation, which was adopted by UNGA in December 2018. The Group had an important role on the decision adopted for a solution on the unutilized balances, which will relieve the financial constraints of UNIDO.

The G-77 and China has been engaged in the strengthening of the position of UNIDO in the context of the repositioning of the United Nations development system and reviewing the Organization's role, including its current field network, within the UN Country Teams and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as well as its involvement in the regional mechanisms and the Sustainable Development Goals.

On IAEA, the Group negotiated and approved 20 interventions. Among the 55 meetings held by the Task Force, it is worth to highlight those to discuss the draft General Conference resolutions, the proposals for the TACC meetings and the 2019 Budget update as well as the common position towards the 2018 Ministerial Conference on nuclear science, technologies and applications for peaceful uses. The Group's main achievements during 2018 focused on the 6 draft resolutions the Group tabled, which were negotiated and adopted in a record time, thanks to the diplomatic skills of our coordinator. The resolutions reemphasized the paramount importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme, as the main statutory vehicle for the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

With regards to UNODC matters, the G77 has struggled to reach a consensus in recent years on how to deal with the global drug problem after 2019. Nevertheless, for the second year in a row the Group manage to find a common position in order to deliver a message during the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the CND. On Crime Prevention, the Group was one of the strongest supporters of the creation of a mechanism to examine the application of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. On the other hand, the G77 and China continue being one of the main promoters of the work of the FINGOV and has requested the Secretariat to carry out greater efforts to achieve gender and regional equality, both in terms of officials working for UNODC as well as the projects and programs that are organized around the world.

Regarding CTBTO, the Group had a joint statement in all the 6 sessions scheduled in 2018. It maintained its principled positions regarding the need of an early Entry into Force of the CTBT, with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons and achieving general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. The Group also welcomed the annual commemoration on the International Day Against Nuclear Tests and the UN Secretary General message on this occasion on the importance of the CTBT within the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

In the framework of COPUOS, the group had an active participation in the celebrations of UNISPACE + 50 setting out principled positions on the importance of international cooperation

in the peaceful exploration as well as on the fundamental need to ensure equal access to outer space, especially for developing countries. The G77 and China led the negotiations for the creation of the Working Group for the 2030 Space Agenda, which will also be chaired by Jordan, a member of this Group.

Following the position adopted in New York and considering the common interest in the work of UNCITRAL on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform, the G-77 Vienna delivered a statement during the third session of Working Group III in order to highlight the importance of improving the global investment environment and the concerns relating to the existing ISDS system given its impact on the development process. The Group also organized 2 informal briefings with the South-Center on this matter to provide Member States with information on the main issues related to ISDS reform.

In 2018 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the G-77 office in Vienna, which has provided fundamental support for the work of the presidency and the members of the Group. I would like to reiterate our deep appreciation to UNIDO and to Director-General Li Yong for having accommodated us in their facilities and for providing their support through the daily contributions of Annemarie Heuls.

Following this celebration, I am pleased to present you the new web page of the G-77 Vienna Chapter, as a contribution of Ecuador to the Group. This is an important tool, not only for Member States but also for external partners and other regional groups, as the site houses information about the group's positions in different areas and preserves the institutional memory of the G77 in Vienna.

The new web page has a modern and accessible format that facilitates the search of documents and it also allows to visualize the international organizations in Vienna, linked to the G-77 work.

Let me briefly describe some of the main features:

- **About us:** History of G77 and Vienna Chapter
- **Activities:** describes the mission of the G-77 office and contains detailed information about the chairmanships and the number of meetings held from 1998 to 2018. Also, you can find a photographic report of official meetings and ceremonies
- **Reports:** complete description of the meetings in which G-77 participated along these 20 years, with the indication of the task force leader for each organization
- **Celebrations** of the anniversaries that took place in Vienna
- **Calendar** is a link to the UNOV page for all meetings taking place in Vienna
- **Statements** delivered by G-77 in each organization, classified by committee, Board or working group from 1998 until now
- **Chairmanships:** detailed information about all the countries that have held this position by year and the countries that have coordinated the task forces
- **G-77 Missions** provides you with information of the Permanent Missions accredited to Vienna-based organizations and will connect you to the Diplomatic list of the Austrian

Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We consider this link very useful as the page is being permanently updated

- The page also offers a search tool and a link to the G-77 Facebook page, which contains pictures of celebrations and social events

Phase 2 of this project will be completed in the next months. We will need some support to standardize and migrate about 500 static pages, 250 images and over 100 PDF documents that are part of the current site.

Hope it will be useful for our future work.

-----

Allow to express my special thanks to my colleague of the Mission of Ecuador, Javier Mendoza, for his professionalism and unconditional support that allowed me to fulfil these responsibilities.

Let me conclude by paying tribute to Annemarie who without a doubt has been the pillar of the G-77 Vienna Chapter since the very date of its establishment. Our gratitude for your dedicated and outstanding work that ensures the effective functioning of the Group, and beyond that, many thanks for the support and friendship that you offer to every delegate of the G77.

I thank you.