

Turnover ceremony on 19 January 2012

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Ali Asghar Soltanieh Permanent Representative of the IR of Iran and Chairman of the Group of 77 Vienna Chapter of 2011

In the Name of God,
the Most Gracious, the Most Compassionate

Excellencies,
Mr. Director-General Dr. Kandeh Yumkella,
Mr. Executive Director Yury Fedotov,
Mr. Executive Secretary Ambassador Tibor Tóth,
Mr. Kwaku Aning, Deputy Director General,

Excellencies and dear Colleagues,

It was indeed a great honour and privilege for me to serve as the Chairman of the Group of 77 Vienna Chapter for the year 2011.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the trust that you reposed in me for leading the important work of the Group.

While participating actively in all activities of the Group, on several occasions, my delegation did not insist on national position for the sake of consensus within the Group. I, therefore, took this responsibility very seriously and tried my best to act impartially to the best of my potential and abilities.

In this vein, during my tenure as the chairman of G77 and China, I tried to conduct our meetings efficiently following inclusiveness approach, bridging the gaps by informal consultations prior to plenary sessions, so that no Member State was left alone or ignored in course of our discussion and decision making process.

On the other hand, while sticking to and defending our common principles, I also spared no effort in the establishment of dialogue and interaction with the Secretariats of the Vienna based Organizations and other regional groups in order to produce a better understanding of our Group's positions and views, and, where possible, to launch cooperation with them.

The last but not the least is the transparency in attitudes and conduct with loyalty to your indispensable trust.

I sincerely hope that I was able to live up to your expectations.

To perform its task effectively, the G-77 held numerous intensive meetings at the Plenary and Task Force level. To give you an idea about the number of meetings held during the year:

UNIDO: Total of 33 meetings: 10 Plenary, 23 Task Force Meetings

IAEA: Total of 56 meetings: 9 Plenary and 47 Task Force Meetings

CTBTO: Total of 23 meetings: 6 Plenary and 17 Task Force Meetings

UNODC and COPUOS: Total of 49 meetings: 9 Plenary and 40 Task Force Meetings

Before I invite Ambassador García Revilla, the distinguished Ambassador of Peru, to take over the charge of Chairmanship of G-77, I would like to thank the Coordinators of the five Task Forces most sincerely for their work carried out with utmost dedication.

I have prepared a letter of admiration to them all.

IAEA: Mr. Rómulo Acurio, Minister Counsellor, PM of Peru (January – May 2011), Mr. Carlos García, Second Secretary, PM of Peru (May-December 2011)

CTBTO: Ms. Cinthia Echavarría, Counsellor, PM of Argentina

UNODC: Ms. Jeanne Mrad, First Secretary, PM of Lebanon (1st half of 2011) and

Mr. Asif Memon, Counsellor, PM of Pakistan (2nd half of 2011),

COPUOS: Mr. Marco Castillo, Second Secretary, PM of Venezuela (not in Vienna right now)

UNIDO: Mr. Suleiman Dauda Umar, Minister, PM of Nigeria (1st half of 2011), Ms. Oluwatobi Osobukola-Abubu, Second Secretary, PM of Nigeria (2nd half of 2011) – both left Vienna already.

I am obliged to express appreciation to UNIDO for their support to the Group of G-77 in hosting the Vienna Chapter of the Group since its establishment in 1998.

I am obliged to also express sincere appreciation for the excellent cooperation rendered by the IAEA, CTBTO, UNODC and COPUOS which facilitated our endeavours to a great extent.

Distinguished Friends,

While thanking once again all members of the G-77 and China for the trust and cooperation, I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that due to the dynamism and expansion of mandates of International Organizations, the members of G77 and China are expected to maintain and further strengthen our unity and our determination for moving towards developments which our great nations deserve. In order to facilitate the implementation of this noble goal we got to take the engagement and dignified interaction with our development partners into serious consideration so that the joint interest and positions of the Group can be better protected and promoted.

I have full confidence in the leadership of Ambassador García with his skilful diplomatic background and would like to assure him of my fullest cooperation, both in my national capacity and as the former Chairman of the Group. I now invite Ambassador García to come forward and take over the position of Chairman of G-77 Vienna Chapter for the year 2012.