

Statement of the President of the G77 and China Vienna Chapter

H.E. Ambassador Carlos Jativa,

Permanent Representative of Ecuador,

Handover Ceremony Chairmanship 2018

Vienna, 9 March, 2018

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to pay tribute to the excellent work undertaken by the distinguished Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Reza Najafi, and his team during the past year. Throughout his term, the Group of 77 and China was fully engaged and participative in the numerous meetings, events, and critical moments that shaped a challenging year.

On behalf of the People and the Government of Ecuador, it is with honor that we assume the chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China for the current year. I assure you that Ecuador is fully committed towards dedicating its indefatigable efforts to represent the Group with both passion and professionalism, furthering the interests, objectives and aspirations of its members.

I would like to deeply thank the entire Group for the confidence and trust that you have bestowed upon us, with particular acknowledgement for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, which nominated Ecuador to this responsibility.

Let me also collectively recognize the contributions from the delegations of Algeria, Egypt, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Peru as task force coordinators for 2018, and singularly express to each one of them my sincere appreciation for their support and dedication.

Moving forward, we will carry on the ambitious mission of our predecessors to promote economic and social equality by striving to eliminate the scourges of poverty and exclusion, while simultaneously upholding the universal right of all peoples to live in a society of peace, dignity, and opportunity.

In effect, peace does not simply imply the absence of war, but rather the foundational condition for integral development. Heeding to the wisdom of Mahatma Gandhi who warned us that poverty embodies the worst form of violence or the vision of Pope Paul VI who declared that “development is the new name for peace,” we must not be conformed with assuring a precarious world order devoid of conflict, but preoccupied with the holistic social growth of peoples and nations.

Overcoming poverty constitutes the major moral imperative of our day. Indeed, for the first time in the history of humanity, poverty is not the inevitable consequence of resource scarcity or natural factors, but the result of unfair and exclusionary commercial and political practices and systems. We should all be scandalized by this reality, and let our internal frustration combined with our inherent sense of justice move us to action, because without a fair distribution of wealth, resolving economic and social issues becomes unattainable.

Ecuador's enshrined cause to eliminate poverty is conjugated with its long-standing and globally recognized determination to reinforce multilateralism in all of its manifestations. It is precisely within this spirit, that my government has proposed the candidature of its Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Presidency of the UN General Assembly at its next regular session.

Excellencies,

More than half a century ago, the founding fathers of our Group convened at Algiers with the noble aim to change the world for the better. During our lifetime, we have witnessed encouraging progress in response to our concerted actions, but the tasks remain tall and the needs pressing, so let us keep vigilant and stay engaged.

The G77 has provided the unified platform to articulate and promote our collective economic and social interests, bolstering our negotiating capacity to address major world issues. As we advocated last year during Ecuador's presidency of the G77 in New York, it is crucial that the countries of the Global South continue to vindicate global governance reform, especially within the decision-making structures of international organizations.

The relevancy of the G77 is indisputable at this current juncture, marked by a collective engagement to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Our contribution is essential and our role vital, given the demographic composition we embrace.

Our work in Vienna equally compels us to continue: (1) promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy; (2) combatting narcotic drugs and transnational organized crime; (3) advocating for the rule of law and institutions; (4) enhancing sustainable industrial development; (5) furthering nuclear non-proliferation and (6) preserving outer space exclusively for pacific purposes.

Given the recency of our International Women's Day celebration yesterday, I would like to specifically highlight the overarching goal of gender equality as part of the 2030 Agenda, which is ingredient not only to our moral virtue, but also our political and economic success and well-being.

In multiple occasions, the Group of 77 and China has declared that access to opportunity remains asymmetrical for girls and women at a global level, far too often perpetuating cycles of injustice, incarnated by deeply rooted labor force and leadership inequalities, wage and income disparities, and degrading work conditions. Within the scope of our mandate, we will endeavor to reverse such imbalances, elevating the dignity of women and girls to its proper place.

Excellencies,

May 2018 will mark the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Vienna Chapter of the G77 and China, an occasion that will allow us to reflect on our efforts to attain the Group's goals and be reinvigorated in our toils.

I would like to highlight the valuable support of UNIDO in these 20 years, in the day-to-day negotiations, particularly the dedicated work of Madame Annemarie Heuls.

It is my wish to maintain close cooperation with the Troika in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted in 2016.

Excellencies, dear Colleagues

It is unambiguously evident that the G77 is most effective and powerful when it is united.

As we celebrate the diversity of our group, our unity constitutes our major strength for ensuring our common interests in future ventures, commensurate with our moral and political duty to better the world, not satisfied with its mere survival, but truly invested in its thriving.

With your support, contribution, and guidance, on behalf of Ecuador, and our mission in Vienna, I pledge before you that we will do our utmost to fulfill the mandate that you have entrusted us with today.

I thank you very much for your time today and look forward to meeting all of you as we walk this formidable path together.