



VIENNA CHAPTER

G77 CHAIRMANSHIP HANDOVER CEREMONY

Excellencies,

H.E. Ambassador Ali Soltanieh, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General of UNIDO Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director, UNODC Mr. Tibor Tóth, Executive Director of CTBTO and Mr. Kwaku Aning, Deputy Director General of IAEA

Distinguished friends and colleagues, It is a great honour for my country and for me to have the opportunity to serve the members of the Group of 77 in Vienna as Chairman for the year 2012, and also I would like to thank the members of my group GRULAC, for the trust deposited in my country to perform this important task. The Group of 77 is one of the largest intergovernmental organizations of developing countries in the United Nations, a forum that allows our countries to articulate their collective interests, made them known and put forward to other international actors, in order to achieve goals on major international issues of the UN-Agenda, that have an impact on the well-being of all our peoples. The Group of 77 has played an historical and dynamic role in the international arena and it has successfully transformed itself with the times and the changing international environment. I believe that this important role has to be preserved with continuous enhancement of our constructive contribution to consensus. And I intend to jointly work with you in that direction. Now, I would like to share with you a few ideas about the important United Nations specialized agencies based in Vienna and their mandates as they relate to G77 agenda. On IAEA matters, I am convinced about the paramount importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme of the Agency, as the main statutory vehicle for the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. I think that the Technical Cooperation Programme plays an important role for the sustainable socio-economic progress in developing countries and contributes towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Therefore, it is a priority for our Group that this issue grow in importance in the agenda of the Agency while giving also due consideration to nuclear safety and other matters, in particular after the events occurred in Fukushima last year. On UNIDO matters, I see the creation of the Working Group on the future of UNIDO as a very positive and pertinent decision, and that a representative of the Group is Co-chairs of the Working Group. I see UNIDO as an organization that is regaining importance in the current economic context. UNIDO has a very dynamic approach with regard to the industrialization process aimed at reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development, and I believe that the main challenge ahead is to produce outputs that could satisfy even more the needs and expectations of the different regions of our Group. On issues related to drugs and crime, I think the role of the UNODC is of vital importance. Transnational organized crime and the world drug problems are global threats that affect all of us. The global nature of the problem demands a coordinated action based on a common and shared responsibility. In this regard, the provision of technical assistance to developing countries should be prioritized in order to enhance our capacity to tackle illicit activities that hinder our social and economic development. I am also convinced that the Comprehensive Test

Ban Treaty is one of the main instruments for nuclear disarmament (CTBTO). Therefore, I hope that we can work together for the entry of force of this important treaty. Distinguished colleagues, Now, let me turn to a few ideas regarding the way in which I intend to conduct our Group during 2012. I strongly believe in the importance of consultations at all levels. Therefore, I will first rely on the working groups and the task force leaders. The task forces should meet as often as possible in order to brainstorm, discuss on ideas on technical matters according to the mandates given by the Plenary. Their important and extensive work should allow us to achieve consensus at the political level in an easier manner. Secondly, I will engage in broad consultations with delegations on all matters. The final stage will be the Plenary level in which political discussions and decisions should take place based on the ground work provided by the working groups and consultations by the chair. I believe that our work should not be limited in issues by the conjunctures. We should work continuously trying to focus on issues relevant to the Group, and not only to particular calendar of meetings. It is also my intention to promote constructive dialogue with other groups that are relevant in the multilateral arena. A permanent channel of dialogue and cooperation with the Secretariats is very important in order to clarify and be informed of actions undertaken, and also to explain to them the priorities and concerns of our Group in relevant issues. I thank you for your attention and I would like to finalize, stressing that my method is to privilege dialogue and consultation, and therefore I intend to work closely to all of your delegations. Thank you very much and I wish you all a Happy 2012.