



VIENNA CHAPTER

G-77 HANDOVER CEREMONY ON 22 JANUARY 2014 STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MAHMOUD ELAMIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN AND CHAIRMAN OF THE G-77 VIENNA CHAPTER FOR 2013

Excellencies,

Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of IAEA Mr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of CTBTO Mr. John Sandage, Director, Division of Treaty Affairs of UNODC

Distinguished colleagues and friends,

Let me at the outset welcome you all to the handover ceremony of the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China between the Republic of the Sudan and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. I would like to seize this opportunity to present to you all my best wishes for this year 2014.

Allow me also to express my appreciation to the heads of organizations and their representatives here present, their presence among us today underscores our shared commitment and common mission.

I am duly bound to express my warmest thanks to all members of the Group of 77 and China for their invaluable support, to renew my appreciation and high regard to the spirit of cooperation and solidarity that prevail in our Group and which helped us to consolidate our ranks and to defend our strategic interests.

A year ago Sudan had the honour and the privilege of taking over the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China for the year 2013. We committed to honour this difficult but prestigious task, to safeguard the interest of our Group and consolidate its well established values. We hope that we have contributed to the fulfillment of these aspirations.

Allow me also to pay special tribute to the different chairs of the Task Forces who performed their duties in an outstanding manner.

I also wish to commend the Secretariats of the Vienna-based Organizations and other regional groups for their support and cooperation with the Group of 77 during last year.

In this context and for the second time, a political dialogue between the G-77 and the EU took place in early April 2013, with a vision to enhance the 2 coordination and cooperation between the two Groups. This practice deserves to be continued in the future.

During 2013 the G-77 held numerous intensive meetings at the Plenary and the task force level. Let me give you an idea of the number of meetings held during last year

where a total of 122 Group meetings – 28 Plenary meetings and 94 Task Force meetings were held.

On UNIDO a total of 34 meetings – 10 at the Plenary and 24 at the Task Force level.

On IAEA a total of 44 meetings – 15 at the Plenary and 29 at the Task Force level.

On UNODC a total of 27 meetings – 3 at the Plenary and 24 at the Task Force level.

On CTBTO 17 meetings at the Task Force level.

I wish to thank UNIDO for hosting the G-77 Vienna Chapter since its creation in 1998 and for supporting the Group by providing us with an effective and dynamic Secretariat.

I wish to thank the Task Force Coordinator on UNIDO matters, Ms. Camila Polo from Colombia for her dedication and hard work during last year.

UNIDO hosted for the second time the meeting of the Chairmen/Coordinators of the Group of 77, this 44th meeting was held on 27 May 2013. It was attended by the Chairman of the Group in New York, H.E. Ambassador Peter Thomson, PR of Fiji, as well as by the Chairs of all G-77 Chapters. During this meeting it was decided to enhance the communication between all Chapters using the advanced technologies, such as video conferences, webinar and enhancing the websites of all G-77 Chapters. Furthermore, discussions took place on the importance to commemorate in a special way the 50th anniversary of the Group in 2014.

An important milestone for UNIDO was the election of the new Director General which took place last June. It was a great honor and satisfaction that Mr. LI Yong from China, who belongs to our Group was elected. Prior to the election process all five candidates from the Group were able to address the Plenary.

It was a year of challenges and achievements for UNIDO, in which the Group of 77 was actively involved. The discussion about the future of the Organization and the preparation of the 15th session of the General Conference in Lima, were the main issues addressed last year. The members of the Group sent a clear message of support to UNIDO when they participated effectively in the deliberations and endorsement of the Lima Declaration, which aims at an inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

The Group had an active and constructive participation during the discussions on the future of the Organization, including the adoption of the Strategic Guidance Document, which is a valuable document that can contribute to the adjustment or the revision of the medium term programme review 2016-2019.

It is important to continue cooperating with UNIDO to ensure the adequate visibility and effective role of the Organization in sustainable development, particularly as a main coordinator within the UN family on inclusive and sustainable industrial development matters. The Group has to follow-up on activities of the post-2015

development agenda, and to promote the coherence and coordination between UNIDO and other development agencies.

The Group will continue to support UNIDO's activities and will continue to follow up on recommendations stated during the meetings of the policy-making organs including the exchange of information and the promotion of best practices, inter-alia the enhancement of South-South cooperation.

The Group undertook efforts to maintain the membership in UNIDO and addressed letters to the Minister Delegate for Development of France, as well as to the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, to avoid withdrawal decisions in order not to undermine the concept of international solidarity and not jeopardizing the existence of multilateral organizations that make a critical contribution to the achievement of the development objectives of the Members of the Group.

IAEA matters:

On IAEA matters, first of all I wish to thank the Task Force Coordinator Mr. Adnan Rashid from Pakistan for his commitment and outstanding work and wish him all the best for his future endeavors.

The Group of 77 and China, participated in all meetings of IAEA's Policy Making Organs during 2013. The Group effectively put across its point of view on issues of vital importance to the Member States which included, inter alia, Agency's programme and budget, and the target for the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF).

This was the first year when both the programme and budget and the TCF were considered in one Working Group. The Group actively pursued its interests during the Working Group's meetings. Its position was based on the following logical principles:

An equitable distribution of costs between promotional and non-promotional activities of the Agency to reflect the equal importance of the three pillars of the Agency, namely the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology including technical cooperation, safety and safeguards;

Promotional activities of the Agency, delivered through technical cooperation, is the main statutory function of the Agency and Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme and promotional activities are in a greater need of sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP) resources.

Through a series of constructive and productive negotiations with the other Groups, we were able to achieve separate targets for the TCF for 2014 and 2015 and to agree on the establishment of a Working Group to examine the ways and means for financing the Agency's budget, including rendering TCF sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP). This was unprecedented. It was recognition for the Group's longstanding position seeking synchronization between increases in both the regular budget and the TCF.

An important achievement for the Group was the adoption of the Group's resolution on the Modernization of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at

Seibersdorf and the allocation of an initial fund for the modernization within the Agency's regular budget 2014-15.

The Group attaches great importance to the Agency's activities under PACT and considers it an extremely useful programme for assisting Member States in their efforts to mitigate cancer. The Group will continue to follow-up on the developments related to the transfer of PACT to the Department of TC.

It goes without saying that the Group's success and achievements during 2013 were the result of its members' commitment to its cause, spirit of cooperation, compromise and above all – solidarity.

On UNODC matters,

I wish to thank the Task Force Coordinator, Mr. Kamal Arifi from Morocco for his dedication and exceptional work carried out during last year and also wish him all the best in his work ahead. During last year's 56th session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs, the Group sponsored 7 resolutions related to the ongoing efforts to combat the world drug problem. One of the major achievements for the Group for 2013 was the presentation of a resolution during the 22nd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, entitled: "Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to protect cultural property, especially with regard to its trafficking". It was related to the issues on data analysis, prevention and criminalization of trafficking in cultural property, protection of cultural property, encouraging international cooperation and technical assistance, as well as specific guidelines for crime prevention and criminal justice, containing also responses with respect to trafficking in cultural property and the model treaty. This resolution was adopted with Italy's co-sponsorship and it was the first time such a resolution was presented by the Group and adopted.

In preparation for the third meeting of the Expert Group on protection against trafficking in cultural property, that took place in Vienna last week, the Task Force of the Group participated in several informal preparatory meetings with Italy and other interested Members States. The Expert Group was able to successfully adopt the guidelines on protection against trafficking in cultural property which represent the main objective of our Group.

Related to the Conference of States Parties to the UNCAC, 5th session, which was held in Panama at the end of last year, the Group continued to defend its position on important issues such as assets recovery and prevention of corruption.

On FINGOV matters the Group had welcomed the adoption by the CND and CCPCJ of two resolutions related to the standing open-ended intergovernmental Working Group on Improving the Governance and Financial Situation, and continued to defend its position on core issues of the FINGOV, in particular to have the FINGOV as a permanent body.

Turning now to CTBTO, the excellent work carried out by the Task Force Coordinator, Ms. Suzilah Sidek from Malaysia deserves a special mention. There were commendable developments in the past year which should be highlighted.

The election of the new Executive Secretary, Mr. Lassina Zerbo from Burkina Faso, who belongs to our Group, was a major credit for us.

The ratification of Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Guinea-Bissau and Iraq now brings the number of States Signatories who have ratified the Treaty to 161. Bringing the number of Group members to 102.

The Group would like to once again commend the Provisional Technical Secretariat on its prompt response in conducting a Technical Briefing following the third nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February 2013.

The Group expressed its appreciation for the success of the Build-Up Exercise III, which was reported in the third-quarter of 2013. The Group welcomed the Observer visits organized by the Provisional Technical Secretariat in preparation for the Integrated Field Exercise 14 (IFE14) which is expected to take place in Jordan later this year.

In this regard, I would like to reiterate the Group's view that the evaluation of IFE14 should be as ambitious as the exercise itself. Bearing in mind the dedicated work being conducted by the PTS and the resources invested, a broad and rigorous evaluation would result in a strong statement on the PTS' achievements related to On-Site Inspection.

The Group has always stressed the importance of promoting a balanced approach towards the three main dimensions of the verification regime, namely the International Monitoring System, the International Data Centre and the OnSite Inspection. The Group confirmed its commitment to its work with the PTS in order to achieve the desired balanced, coherent and efficient verification regime.

As the term for the Chair of Working Group A has ended, I would like to thank Ambassador Enksaikhan and Ambassador Batjargal, both from Mongolia for chairing Working Group A and to welcome Ambassador Azeez of Sri Lanka as the new Chair of this Working Group.

It is also worth mentioning the efforts of Indonesia for coordinating and chairing the Article XIV Conference together with Hungary.

Excellencies, Distinguished colleagues and friends,
Looking back as we celebrate this year the 50th Anniversary of our Group, we realize once again that the underline rationale that inspired the creation of our group has remained unchanged, rather it has become all the more pertinent and crucial.

I don't want to end my Chairmanship's report without commending Annemarie Heuls, the cornerstone of our Group. Her competence, calm and dedication contributed to the smooth preparation and coordination of the activities of the Group. She has acted close to me and to the Task Force Coordinators, not only on her duties as Secretariat of the G-77 but also as a well experienced advisor to many substantive and delicate issues that came up during 2013.

I wish to thank all of you for your cooperation and solidarity and for having worked with me closely during the last year and I sincerely hope that I was able to live up to your expectations.

I also want to thank my colleagues at the Sudanese Mission for their dedication and commitment during my tenure.

Now it is time to pass the torch of the Chairmanship of the Group to our distinguished colleague H.E. Ambassador Abdul Azeez Aliyar Lebbe of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. We have full confidence that he will lead our Group with the same vigor, professionalism and expertise that we have known about him. I would like to renew to him our full support in this exciting and challenging mission.