



VIENNA CHAPTER

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR REZA NAJAFI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE VIENNA CHAPTER OF THE GROUP OF 77 DURING 2017

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome:

H.E. Mr. Carlos Játiva Naranjo, Permanent Representative of Ecuador

H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of the IAEA

Mr. Hiroshi Kuniyoshi, Deputy Director General and Managing Director of UNIDO

Mr. Dennis THATCHAICHAWALIT, Deputy Director-General of UNOV and Director, Division for Management of UNODC

Mr. WANG Xiaoning, Director Legal and External Relations Division of CTBTO

Member States of the Group of 77 and China of the Vienna Chapter, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

Let me first of all congratulate the incoming Chair, H.E. Ambassador Carlos Játiva Naranjo from Ecuador on his nomination by GRULAC to assume the Chairmanship of the Group for this year. I wish you all the best for this task and please count on my support, and, in particular the Troika, whenever necessary.

When I assumed the Chairmanship one year ago, it was my intention to safeguard the principles, interests, values and aspirations of the Group – and I believe that we have tried our best in the course of last year.

The Group has held a total of 130 meetings on all Vienna-based issues, 69 on IAEA, 34 on UNIDO, 12 on UNODC, 9 on CTBTO and 6 on COPUOS-related matters. These meetings helped to further consolidate and strengthen international cooperation as well as South-South cooperation as a strategy to sustain the development efforts of the members of the Group.

In this context, I wish to personally thank my Task Force Coordinators for their excellent work done. Without your efforts, dedication and diplomatic skills our tasks would not have been able to achieve. It is indeed through your hard work that 2017 was such a successful year for the Group. Thank you: Mr. Max Fraga from Brazil on IAEA (who recently departed from Vienna), Mr. Moataz Abdelhady from Egypt on UNIDO, Mr. Jawad Ali from Pakistan on UNODC, Ms. Sharon Ho from Malaysia on CTBTO, and Ms. Ana Avila Becerril from Costa Rica on COPUOS.

Let me briefly reflect on last year's developments and achievements: During last year's IAEA General Conference, Mr. Amano was reappointed for a third time, to which the Group wishes him all the success.

The Group's main achievements during 2017 focused on the 6 draft resolutions the Group tabled, namely: (1) Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities; (2) General part non power nuclear applications; (3) Support to the African Union's Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC); (4) Use of isotope hydrology for water resources management; (5) Renovation of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf; and (6) Personnel. The Group negotiated and approved 24 interventions. Among the many meetings held by the Task Force, it is worth to highlight those to discuss the draft General Conference resolutions; the proposals for the Nuclear Security Plan 2018-2021; and the 2018 Ministerial Conference on nuclear science, technologies and applications for peaceful uses, and their delivery to Member States through the Agency's TC programme.

With regard to UNIDO, the Group has been pleased to see DG LI Yong reappointed for a second term. He has guided the Organization with his dynamic leadership and reconstructed the Organization from inside. Through this vision and introduction of new perspectives based on the concept of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), UNIDO has witnessed new programmes like the PCPs, which will be further expanded in our region. The Group has been very active during last year's PMO meetings, tabled a decision at the IDB together with the EU on the MTPF and played an active role in the establishment of the Working Group on PBC related matters, and providing a Co-Chair of our Group.

In May 2018, it will be 20 years that UNIDO has institutionalized the G- 77 Office, which permits the Group to have a proper platform and strengthen its productivity and work within the Vienna-based Organizations. In this regard, I wish to particularly thank UNIDO and its Director General for their support, especially in providing a Professional Staff, Ms. Annemarie Heuls, G-77 focal point for all the UN Vienna-based Organizations, throughout all these years, who has alone handled all the G-77 agenda in a most professional and able manner.

On UNODC, issues related to drugs and crimes remained an important priority for the Group of 77 and China. Efforts were made to enhance coordination and consultations and forge consensus within the Group on matters of common interest. For instance, the Group successfully presented comprehensive and common position at the 60th anniversary session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the 26th regular session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the 7th biennial session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The Group also firmed up a common stance on the occasion of the reconvened sessions of the 60th and 61st CND, and the 26th session of CCPCJ. On the occasion of the 7th Conference of the States Parties, the Group co-sponsored the resolution on "Follow-up to the Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption" (Resolution 7/6).

The years 2018 and 2019 are likely to be marked with further significant developments in the areas of drugs and crime. To illustrate, preparations for the 2019 ministerial meeting of the CND are underway.

Later this year, the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is also to meet. Preparations for the UNTOC review mechanism are likely to come under sharper focus.

I am confident that G77 membership would continue to work closely with a view to promoting common interests of the Group.

The Group's activities on CTBTO recognize that all recent ratifications of the Treaty, standing at this point at 166, as well as requests to participate as Observers have come from developing countries, and are each a step forward in the process of bringing the CTBT to its muchdesired universal status.

The Group consistently emphasizes the importance it attaches to cooperation with CTBTO, in particular capacity-building and training and is supportive of the various activities carried out by the PTS in this field, as a means of improving the ability of States Signatories to fully participate in the Treaty's verification regime.

The Group is of the view that CTBT activities organized by the PTS in cooperation with Member States must be guided by the decisions of its governing bodies. Without prejudice to our appreciation of donor's contributions to such activities, it is the principled position of the Group that, ideally, capacity-building activities should be funded in a sufficient manner through the Regular Budget.

On COPUOS matters, the Group has been also active and has prepared this year's major event - UNISPACE+50, as 2018 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first UNISPACE conference, held in Vienna, in 1968. UNISPACE+50 will be a good opportunity to chart the future role of the Committee, its Subcommittees and the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs and to take stock of the contributions of the three previous UNISPACE conferences (UNISPACE I, II and III).

In accordance with the proposal presented by the Steering Committee in document A/AC.1105/L.297, COPUOS and its subsidiary bodies, at their respective sessions in 2018, are to address UNISPACE+50 as the overarching theme under their respective agendas, within the framework of the thematic priorities identified in 2016, and building upon the following cross-cutting areas: Governance, Capacity-building, Resiliency, Interoperability, Space and Sustainable Development.

Your Excellencies, Colleagues, in conclusion, I wish to thank once again everyone for their support and engagement during last year's Chairmanship and help defend and protect our main goals in all Vienna based United Nations Organizations.

Last but not least, I wish Ambassador Játiva Naranjo and the Permanent Mission of Ecuador success in this important responsibility and offer my personal commitment and collaboration in our common endeavor of promoting the interests and principles of our Group.

Good luck Ambassador Játiva on your appointment.