



VIENNA CHAPTER

G-77 TAKEOVER STATEMENT

Your Excellency, Mr. Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO

Your Excellency, Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of IAEA

Your Excellency, Mr. Lassina Zerbo, Executive Secretary of CTBTO

Mr. Dennis Thatchaichawalit, Deputy Director-General of UNOV and Director of the Division for Management at UNOV and UNODC

Distinguished Ambassadors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to be here today to officially receive the Chairmanship of the Group of 77. First and foremost, I would like to thank the outgoing Chair, Ecuador, for their hard work and able leadership of the Group throughout the past year. We recognize the immense responsibility that this task entails, and I would like to assure you that throughout the coming year, my team and I will spare no effort to carry out the duties of the Chair, to protect and promote the interests of the Group, and to support each and every one of you to the best of our abilities. We are hopeful and confident that you will provide us with your valuable support during the coming months, and look forward to working closely with all of you to further our shared goals and ideals.

As the largest single group of states in international fora, the G-77 has played an instrumental role in advancing the interests of developing countries and securing their right to sustainable development. It has also acted as the strongest advocate for the immortal principles of peace, justice, and equality in the international system and in the United Nations. These are the principles that have come to define the G-77, and it is by speaking in a united voice that we have managed to take significant strides forward in promoting them.

Egypt has always been, and remains, deeply and fully committed to the principles of the G-77, and to its unity. During the previous year, Egypt undertook the Chairmanship of the larger G-77, based in New York, before handing the Chairmanship over to the sister State of Palestine this month, confident that they will be able to carry the torch in an admirable manner. During our Chairmanship of the larger G-77, we exerted every effort to advance the objectives and values of the Group. We worked in close cooperation with all G-77 member states to uphold the Group's higher political and economic interests. We intend to be guided by the same commitment to the Group during our Chairmanship of the Vienna Chapter of the G-77.

As you are all aware, the Vienna-based International Organizations are home to some of the most crucial and sensitive discussions, particularly as pertains to the interests of the G-77. The issues addressed in Vienna have a direct impact on our sustainable development efforts and capabilities as well as on the security and prosperity of our societies. The Vienna Chapter of the G-77 has consistently risen to the task of defending and advancing these interests in the different fora.

During the coming period, we must look to build upon the successes and achievements of the past, while further developing and adapting our approach. We must consolidate our common positions, overcome potential differences, and present a united front, in order to be able to effectively tackle the ever-evolving challenges ahead. During the coming year, the Vienna chapter of the G-77 must exert united and concerted efforts across the different Vienna-based fora to promote its priorities. We must highlight and expand all efforts relating to sustainable development and consolidate our full and inalienable rights in this field. We must highlight the concept of national ownership of development projects, technical assistance, and capacity-building activities, to ensure that they are tailored to the needs of the country in question, and not the donors. We must defend and advance the unchanging principles which preserve the security and wellbeing of our countries and societies. We must strive towards greater equity in the international system, including by ensuring balanced, non-discriminatory policies and approaches, and work to improve geographical distribution of staff in the Vienna-based organizations. We must also further develop and promote united positions regarding new and emerging threats, which receive particular attention in Vienna, as well as the challenges and opportunities presented by new advances and developments, and their potential effects on developing countries.

As we work to further our joint interests throughout the coming period, we must be vigilant of any attempts to diminish the role of the Vienna-based institutions, or to alter their mandates or their focus to serve goals other than those they were established to serve. It is of utmost importance for the G-77 to stand united against any such attempts, which threaten to derail important objectives and interests for the group.

In order for the Group to function as effectively as possible in the face of these challenges, it is essential to place the greatest focus on our points of strength, and the greatest strength of the G-77 has always been embodied in its unity. During Egypt's Chairmanship of the G-77 Vienna Chapter, we will work together with all of you to ensure that we identify and reaffirm the positions on which we enjoy a consensus within the Group, and base our joint efforts on these positions, while attempting to overcome, or if necessary, avoid issues which may divide and weaken the Group's positions. In light of the significant challenges and opportunities ahead, it will be crucial to minimize the time and effort devoted to addressing our differences, and instead to strengthen the united voice with which the Group speaks, and as Chair, we will spare no effort to facilitate this process.

Once again I would like to thank you for the trust you have placed in Egypt to assume this Chairmanship, and assure you of our unwavering commitment to the G-77 and its principles and goals.

With your support, we are dedicated to ensuring the success of the G-77 Vienna Chapter throughout the coming year.