



STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND ITS PROTOCOLS, 3RD SESSION, VIENNA, 9-18 OCTOBER 2006 DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ANA TERESA DENGO, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF COSTA RICA

Mr. President,

Permit me to express on behalf of the Group of 77 and China my warm congratulations to you on your election as well as to other members of the Bureau to direct the proceedings of this Third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. I wish to assure you of the Group's support in the task ahead.

The Group welcomes the increasing number of ratifications of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the implementation of its Protocols. The Convention and its three protocols represent a significant step forward in the fight against transnational organized crime and signifies the collective will of Member States to promote cooperation and combat transnational organized crime more effectively through close and dynamic international cooperation including the adoption of concrete measures for mutual legal assistance, extradition, law- enforcement, technical assistance and training.

The G-77 and China believes that the main role of the Conference of the Parties is to enhance the implementation of the Convention and its protocols through the establishment of mechanisms to facilitate this aim. Therefore the Group attaches great importance to the agenda items of this session, especially agenda items 2c and 6 on technical assistance activities.

As the Conference of the Parties embarks upon the activities envisaged under the Convention and its protocols, the Group wishes to recall the commitments undertaken during the negotiations of the Convention and its protocols to provide technical assistance to the developing countries for their implementation at the national level, in accordance with Article 30 of the Convention.

Mr. President,

We would like to recall the Vienna and Bangkok Declarations, which recognized that comprehensive crime prevention must address the root causes related to crime through social, economic, health, education and justice policies. In this context, we call upon the international community to cooperate effectively in addressing the root causes of crime and better implementation of the TOC convention, in accordance with Article 30 of the Convention.

Mr. President,

The Group would like to highlight the challenges faced by Member States in the implementation of the TOC, especially on issues related to capacity and capability of Member States in solving the problems of the victims of human trafficking especially women and children. The Group calls upon UNODC to provide technical assistance and cooperation to Member States in meeting these challenges.

As regards the mechanisms to review periodically the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, which are already in force, the G-77 and China believes that such mechanisms must include technical assistance projects aimed at better implementation of the Convention by State parties. The process leading to the adoption of these mechanisms must be open to all Member States with a view to encourage the

ratification and to ensure the universal character of the convention. In this context, the Group welcomes the establishment of an open-ended working group on technical assistance and looks forward for its work at this session of the COP.

The Group notes the declining number of responses to the questionnaires designed for gathering information and emphasizes the importance of addressing the problems and obstacles faced by countries in reporting to the Conference.

The Group would like to reiterate its support to the Chair in the task ahead during the current session of the COP.

Thank you Mr. President.