



**STATEMENT BY H. E. DATO' GANESON SIVAGURUNATHAN
AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS IN VIENNA CHAIRMAN OF THE G-77 AND CHINA
IN VIENNA
12 FEBRUARY 2020**

Your Excellency, Ms Ghada Fathi Whali, Director General of the United Nations Office in Vienna and Executive Director of UNODC;

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

Your Excellency, Mr. Raphael Grossi, Director General of IAEA;

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

Distinguished Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for my country and for me to officially receive the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China for this year. At the outset, I would like also to extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the Asian Pacific Group as well as the entire membership of the Group of 77 and China for their confidence and trust placed in my country to perform this important task.

I would like to thank the outgoing Chair, my distinguish colleague Ambassador Omar Ameer Youseff of Egypt and his team, for his valuable efforts in advancing the interests of the Group and for the achievements made throughout his Chairmanship.

Distinguished Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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.

This year is an important year for the history of the United Nations. We celebrate 75 years since the Charter of United Nations was signed in San Francisco in 1945. The G-77 will continue to contribute and remain active towards the work of the United Nations including through the convening of the South Summit, the supreme decision-making forum of G-77 to be held in Uganda this April. Malaysia, as an active member of the Group, has made a one-off contribution of USD50,000 to support the work, which is now well underway to ensure its success.

Distinguished Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me also to express my appreciation to the Heads of International Organizations and their representatives. Their presence among us today underscores our shared commitment and common mission and reaffirms the importance they attach to the work and activities of the Group of 77 and China in Vienna. I would like to reiterate our resolve to continue working with Vienna based Organizations 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 our Group.

Having an organized channel of dialogue and interaction with the Secretariats of Vienna based International Organizations is very important in order to clarify the issues and be informed of actions undertaken and also sharing the priorities, observations and concerns of our Group on a variety of relevant issues. I firmly believe in the importance of consultations both formal and informal at all levels. As you are aware all task force leaders for UNIDO, UNODC, IAEA, COPOUS, CTBTO and UNCITRAL have been recently appointed. I entrust the work of the Group's task force leaders and the outcome of their meetings. Should there is necessity, we will meet at plenary to bridge the gaps and reach consensus to the extent possible through constructive dialogue as the best approach in consensus building with due regard to maintaining unity and solidarity among our Group.

Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much. Within the G-77, I believe that we could achieve more success together and this could only be done by upholding the spirit of multilateralism, supporting the United Nations system and actively participating in the Vienna international arena.

Distinguished Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, let me thank Director General Li Yong and UNIDO for financially supporting the Office of the G-77 since its establishment in Vienna. Their continued support has made it possible for the G-77 and its Member States to strive towards achieving their aspirations within the UN system. In this regard, I would like to reiterate the importance to strengthen the Office of G-77 with sufficient resources including personnel and welcome other Vienna based international organisations in extending their support and contribution towards the work of the G-77.

I also take this opportunity, on behalf of the Vienna Chapter, to express gratitude to Ms. Annemarie Heuls, Liaison Officer of the G-77 for her excellent facilitation and dedicated work for G-77. She is no doubt deserves our special commendation.

Let me conclude by thanking once again all of you for your valuable support and trust. I wish to assure you that task force leaders and I will do our best to ensure our collective success. I look forward to your support and cooperation in carrying out my responsibility.

Once again I would like to thank you for the trust you have placed in Malaysia 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 2020.

Thank you.