



Group of 77 and China at the third formal FinGov meeting on 17 June 2020 delivered by H. E. Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan, Permanent Representative of Malaysia

Excellencies, Distinguished Co-Chairs,

1. The Group highly appreciates the introductory remarks of H. E. Madam Ghada Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and pledge to work with her to achieve more positive progress toward better policies and programs and to effectively improve the governance and financial situation of UNODC.

2. The Group sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Co-Chairs Ms. Natasha Pinheiro Agostini (Brazil) and Mr. Ignacio Baylina Ruíz (Spain) in enhancing consultations with Member States to work on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC and its programmes.

3. The Group thanks the Secretariat for the preparation for this meeting.

4. The Group is pleased that UNODC among other VBOs has adopting measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic in compliance with the measures of the Austrian Government and appreciates that despite the difficulties and challenges of the current situation the UNODC has managed to find ways to operate in order to carry out its responsibilities as mandated.

5. In this regard, the group reiterates its disposition to work closely with UNODC to find solutions for conducting our work during the second half of the year 2020 and recall that the group's point of view has been shared in a letter addressed to the VBOs dated 27 May 2020, which include its proposals and observations. As for UNODC meetings we suggest that priority should be given to those meetings that will make decisions on administrative and financial aspects including political matters for UNODC to be able to fulfill its mandates and for the service delivery to Member States upon request.

6. The Group emphasizes that, all decisions taken for this period of time to convene some essential meetings virtually and to limit on holding large in-person meeting because of the situation posed by the pandemic, should be temporary and not making any precedent and substitute the established methods of work of UNODC. The group encourages the secretariat of UNODC to continue their work that based on recognized rules and practices including the adhering utmost transparency, objectivity, inclusiveness and close inter- states consultations within its mandates. It's also important for the group, inter alia, other issues raised in the letter of the group to the VBOs that virtual and hybrid meetings, especially those ones that need to negotiate outcomes and decisions, should have a clear view on rules of procedures and methods of work. In addition to that we would like to emphasize that there will be outcomes and decisions that would be difficult to discuss in a virtual format and in this regard, it's important to identify timely dates in which in person consultations can be held. .

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

7. The Group reiterates the significance of the open-ended intergovernmental working group of FINGOV and hopes that it will continue to play its active role and to address the concerns of the Member States regarding the governance and financial situation of UNODC and its programmes.

8. The Group considers of utmost importance the full and timely implementation of CND Resolution 62/9 and CCPCJ Resolution 28/4, in which it was asked from the Office, inter alia, a set of information on diverse topics within a concrete timeframe. The Group is cognizant of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, but at the same time highlights the importance for Member States to receive the information requested in a timely manner, in order to guide the work of UNODC and take corrective measures on persistent concerns.

9. The Group reiterates the importance of adequate, predictable and stable funding for UNODC in order for the Office to enhance provision of technical assistance, in particular to developing countries, upon request. In the same vein, the Group emphasizes the need for efficient utilization of such resources to ensure long-term sustainability. The Group also notes with concern the challenges facing UNODC due to the shortfall in general purpose funding and underlining funding trends affecting the office ability to efficiently and independently uphold core programmatic functions, in particular normative work and research.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

10. The Group requests the Executive Director of UNODC to achieve equal representation of women at senior and policy-making levels, and to report on the progress of such measures to the Commissions. The Group also underlines the importance of respecting and implementing the principle of equitable geographical representation in the composition of UNODC staff, in line with the UN Charter. We reaffirm that the principle of equitable geographical representation should apply to posts within the UN Secretariat regardless of the source of funding.

11. The Group particularly reiterates its growing concern that concrete and sustainable efforts are still lacking to enhance representation of developing countries in the staff composition of the Office, particularly developing Member States that are unrepresented and underrepresented in the Secretariat of UNODC. The situation at the professional, senior and policy-making levels is of notable concern given the lack of representation of developing countries. We call on UNODC to take comprehensive measures to improve the representation of developing countries in line with General Assembly resolutions.

12. The Group takes note of the information provided by the UNODC regarding their efforts to achieve geographical diversity. The Group renews its call for UNODC to provide a comprehensive Action Plan for equitable geographical representation in the composition of UNODC staff, and calls on the UNODC to make this document available to Member States as a matter of priority. Hence, the Group calls on the Executive Director to improve meaningful efforts to enhance equitable geographical representation and to increase the representation of developing countries in the Secretariat. The Group reiterates its call for FINGOV to continue on a regular basis and under a standing agenda item to review the progress made by the Office in improving representation from developing countries.

13. Finally, the Group emphasize the importance of multilingualism and recognize the concrete steps made so far to make available documents, resolutions and decisions on the website of the Office in all six official languages of the United Nations. The Group encourages UNODC to continue these efforts, in order to achieve the full implementation of the request made in this regard by the CND and the CCPCJ.

Thank you distinguished Co-Chairs.