



**G-77 and China Statement during Open-ended intergovernmental expert group of the
Conference of the Parties established in accordance with Conference resolution 9/1,
International Expert Group (IEG) held from 13-15 July 2020**

Agenda item 1

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

1. It is my pleasure to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on the Opened International Experts Group established in accordance with COP resolution 9/1 to gladly express the appreciation of the group to the Chair of this Expert Group. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation for this meeting.
2. The Group commends UNODC among other VBO's for adopting the measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic in compliance with the measures of the Austrian Government.
3. The Group would like to express its sincere appreciation for the President of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention against Transitional Organized Crime on his preliminary response to some of the issues on the organization of work that had been raised in the letter of the Group on 6 July 2020.
4. The Group welcomes the adoption of the Hybrid/In-Person format for the ongoing second meeting of the open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group of the Conference of the Parties established in accordance with COP resolution 9/1 to be held from 13 to 15 July 2020 in the Vienna International Centre.
5. The Group calls for the expansion of the number of participants from Permanent Missions of States parties beyond the indicated limit of 80, should the number of nominations require it, subject to the limitations in terms of time for preparation, as well as health, safety and space constraints in the venue.
6. The Group affirms that any limitation on the number of delegations allowed to participate in-person in a meeting shall not set a precedent for any future meetings.
7. The Group stresses the need for all Member States to be granted the opportunity to access and fully participate in all meetings organized by UNODC on an equal basis.
8. The Group further underlines the necessity of holding timely and inclusive consultations with Member States regarding the format of any future meetings, and to inform Permanent Missions of the format and working methods of such meetings no less than two weeks in advance of every meeting.
9. The Group believes such considerations are essential to ensure that intergovernmental meetings are held in line with long-standing principles of the UN as well as existing rules of procedure, and with full and equal participation of all Member States.
10. Finally, the G-77 and China requests that this statement be reflected in the report of this session of the Experts Group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.