



**Group of 77 and China statement during the resumed 55th session of the
Preparatory Commission on 27 January 2021, delivered by H.E. Ambassador
Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica**

Mr Chairperson,

1. At the outset, the Group avails itself of this opportunity to welcome H.E. Ambassador Ivo Šrámek, Permanent Representative of Czech Republic and congratulates him on his election as Chairperson of the Preparatory Commission for the year 2021. The Group thanks Ambassador Faouzia Mebarki for chairing the Preparatory Commission during 2020. The Group congratulates Ambassador Mebarki for her leadership and hard work in conducting the work of the Prepcom through a challenging year and wishes her success in her future endeavours.
2. The Group reiterates its standing positions that have been stated in previous sessions of the Preparatory Commission and further reiterates that the Vienna spirit and the principle of consensus should prevail in any decision-making process.
3. The Group takes this opportunity to continue encouraging the Executive Secretary in his efforts to significantly improve the gender balance and the equitable geographical distribution within the organization and at all levels of responsibilities.
4. On the sub item related to the appointment of the Chairperson of Working Group B, The Group wishes to reiterate its thanks to Dr. Schulze for all his efforts during his Chairmanship of the Working Group and looks forward to reaching a consensus on the selection of the new Chairperson for WGB in the current PrepCom, while respecting the principles of geographical rotation, inclusivity and unity of the Prepcom.
5. On the sub item of the appointment of Directors of the PTS, the Group welcomes and supports the recommendations of the Executive Secretary in document CTBT/PTS/INF.1574, regarding the appointments to the positions of Director of the International Data Centre Division, Director of the Legal and External Relations Division and Director of Knowledge Management and Human Resources Services, for a period of three years.
6. Finally, the Group takes this opportunity to assure you of its full support and cooperation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.