

**STATEMENT OF THE OUTGOING G-77 CHAIR  
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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES  
G-77 Handover Ceremony  
15 January 2021**

Excellencies,  
Colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
A pleasant afternoon to all.

1. *It is my honor to deliver the following statement on behalf of Her Excellency, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative Maria Cleofe Natividad, who has now joined the IAEA as Secretary of the Policy-Making Organs. **I quote:***
2. “First, I wish to greet all of you a happy new year and pray for your good health. I also wish to extend a warm welcome to the heads of the Vienna-based organizations joining us: UN Office in Vienna Director-General and UNODC Executive Director Ghadha Fathi Waly, UNIDO Director General Li Yong, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, CTBTO PrepCom Executive Secretary Lassina Zerbo, UNCITRAL Secretary Anna Joubin-Bret, and UNOOSA Director Simonetta di Pippo.
3. Today, as I turn-over the Chairmanship to Ambassador Alejandro Solano of Costa Rica, which I shared with Ambassador Ganeson of Malaysia, I have no doubt that the Group will be in good hands. I wish you all the best, dear Ambassador, and please be assured of my delegation’s full support during your tenure.
4. Excellencies, colleagues, it is an understatement to say that 2020 was a challenging year. Despite the challenges posed by the outbreak, however, the Group continued to pursue the development agenda in the various Vienna-based organizations (VBOs). I hope that the Group is proud of our collective accomplishments in 2021, just to highlight a few:
  - At the UNIDO, we were able to deliver our statements during the 36th session of the Programme and Budget Committee in September and the Industrial Development Board in November.
  - At the UNODC, despite the postponement of several major events, we were able to deliver the Group’s statements at the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (COP-UNTOC) and during the joint session of the reconvened Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the regular session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).
  - At the UNCITRAL, while the Group did not have a common statement during the two-part 53rd session in July and September, many of our Group members participated actively in those sessions.
  - At the IAEA, on top of the usual General Conference resolutions tabled by the Group on Technical Cooperation and various nuclear applications, the Group was able to draft, negotiate and table two additional resolutions on COVID-19

and ZODIAC. I am also pleased to note that the TC component of the ZODIAC project was approved by the Board of Governors last November.

- At the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, the Group continued to push for the urgent entry into force of the CTBT, with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
  - While the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the COPUOS was cancelled in 2020, I hope that the Group will continue to push for capacity-building and access of developing countries to the peaceful uses of outer space in 2021.
5. All our accomplishments in the past year would not have been possible without the efficient and effective work of our very capable task force leaders, namely:
    - For UNODC - Ms. Safa Shabat of Palestine;
    - For UNIDO - Mr. Hazem Zaki of Egypt;
    - For UNCITRAL - Mr. Zainal Izran Zahari of Malaysia;
    - For IAEA - Mr. Pedro Peñha Brasil of Brazil;
    - For CTBTO - Mr. Arsi Dwinugra Firdausy of Indonesia; and
    - For COPUOS - Mr. Mahmoud Movahed of Iran.
  6. I also take this opportunity to thank Member States for their continued active participation during the meetings of the Group. Last but not the least, I wish to offer my sincere appreciation to our hard-working G-77 Secretariat, led by Ms. Annemarie Heuls and supported by Mr. Maximilian Knasar.
  7. 2021 is poised to become a busy year for all of us. Many meetings that were postponed last year are scheduled to resume this year. I understand that many VBOs will also be busy with their budget discussions and appointment processes. And if we are to pursue economic recovery and national development, the Group must continue to prioritize capacity-building and technical assistance for developing countries in the VBOs. In this regard, I wish to ask all of you to offer my successor the same support you have shown me.
  8. Finally, as I take my G-77 hat off, I wish to thank all of you for the trust placed in me and my delegation. With this, I now turnover the baton to Ambassador Alejandro Solano of Costa Rica. Thank you." ***End of quote.***