



Statement by the Group of 77 and China at the joint meeting of the reconvened 64th Session of the CND and the reconvened 30th Session of the CCPCJ on 8-10 December 2021, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica

1. It is my pleasure to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on this joint meeting of the reconvened sessions of CCPCJ and the CND.
2. The Group appreciates Ambassador Dominika Anna Krois of Poland and Ambassador Alessandro Cortese of Italy for their co-chairpersonship of the joint meeting of the two Commissions.
3. Allow me on behalf of the Group to make extensive our appreciation for the Commissions Secretariat for the timely preparation of the sessions as well as the timely submission of the documents for our consideration, a work that is even more highlighted during these difficult times.
4. The Group reiterates the significance of the ‘open-ended intergovernmental working group to improve the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime’ or FINGOV. The Group sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Co-Chairs Mr. Germán Calderón (Colombia) 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.
5. Now that we have had consultations on the future of FINGOV, the Group wishes to underscore the importance of its consolidation as the principal forum for communication and dialogue between Member States and UNODC’s Secretariat, and where follow up to the Office’s mandates implementation can be made in an open, inclusive, transparent, and regular manner.
6. The Group calls upon all to strive to take full advantage of the FINGOV in its new format for strengthening its methods of work, its agenda, and for making it even more dynamic. The Group welcomes the top management engagement with FINGOV, particularly the participation of the Executive Director, Madame Waly, in some of its meetings, and welcomes the decision to have such meeting at least once a year, since this allows timely and dynamic responsiveness to the needs and concerns of States, particularly in times of rapid change.
7. The Group is fully aware of the importance of UNODC country programmes and projects in developing countries and also the financial challenges and difficulties in the process of their implementation, and requests UNODC to fully implement country programmes and projects.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

8. The Group reiterates the importance of adequate, predictable and stable funding for UNODC in order for the Office to enhance provision of technical assistance, capacity-building and needed equipment 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 UNODC faces due to the Pandemic that still affects the whole world.

9. The Group requests the Secretariat to keep Member States regularly informed and engaged regarding the implementation, effects and implications of the UN reform process on the Office's work, including the UN Development System Reform, and the UN Management System Reform and requests the Executive Director to report to the upcoming sessions of the Commissions on this issue. So far, progress has been made, but more systematic, concrete and friendly readable information is needed, not only on UNODC's headquarters efforts and implications, but specially on how these reforms have affected and improved its work on the field.

10. The UNODC's research work should be based on clear and prior mandates and policy guidance provided by the Governing Bodies. The Group would also like to emphasize the need for regular dialogue and close consultations between Member States and UNODC regarding the ongoing and planned research activities at all its stages.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

11. The Group requests the Executive Director of UNODC to ensure equitable and geographical representation, enhanced participation of women, especially from developing countries, particularly at senior and policymaking levels, and to report on the progress of such measures to the Commissions.

12. The Group reaffirms that the principle of equitable geographical representation, which has been enshrined in the UN Charter, should apply to posts within the UN Secretariat regardless of the source of funding, and underline the importance of respecting and implementing this principle in the composition of UNODC staff.

13. The Group urges UNODC to take serious and concrete measures to improve the representation of developing countries in line with General Assembly resolutions and to report in details and disaggregated by nationality on the progress of such measures to the Commissions, particularly on the work done by UNODC on the matter. Agreed ad ref

14. The Groups recalls that multilingualism, as a core value of the UN, contributes to the achievement of the goals of the Organization, as set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations and emphasizes the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations. The Group welcomes the efforts made so far by the Secretariat in this regard, and urge UNODC to take the appropriate measures to implement current multilingualism policies.

15. Finally, this session of the Commissions comes again at a time when our world continues to face the pandemic of COVID-19. While the Group welcomes the efforts made by all parties to make the most of the current situation, we also recognize that these challenging times are a call for an early preparation of the Commissions for the next regular meetings in 2022. The Group is of the firm belief that we cannot delay substantive discussions and taking action on all agenda items related to the world drug problem and crime prevention and criminal justice, in a format agreeable to all. The Group, therefore, calls on the Commissions to take the lead in the international responses to the multiple changing and evolving manifestations of crime, moreover in times of crisis.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.