



## **G-77 Handover Ceremony**

**Statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine  
FARHANE, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of  
Morocco and Chairperson of the Vienna Chapter during 2022**

**Vienna, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

*Your Excellency, Ms. Ghada Fathi Wali, Director General of UNOV and Executive Director of UNODC;*

*Your Excellency, Mr. Gerd Müller, Director General of UNIDO;*

*Your Excellency, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of IAEA;*

*Your Excellency, Mr. Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of CTBTO;*

*Your Excellency, Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary of UNCITRAL;*

*Your Excellency, Ms. Simonetta di Pippo, Director of UNOOSA;*

*Distinguish Ambassadors, members of Permanent Missions in Vienna, Ladies and Gentlemen*

It is a great honor for my country and for me to officially receive today, for the first time, the chairmanship of the G-77 Vienna Chapter. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the Group of 77 for the confidence and trust they put in my country to take over this significant task. I would like to assure you that throughout this year, my team and I will spare no effort to carry out the duties of the Chair, to preserve and promote the interests and aspirations of the Group, and to support each and every one of you to the best of our abilities.

I would like to express my appreciation and recognition to Ambassador Alejandro Solano Ortiz and his team, for his valuable efforts in progressing the interests of the Group and for all the achievements made throughout his chairmanship, in spite of the challenging times due the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### ***Excellencies and ladies and gentlemen***

The G-77 has emerged as the most important forum of developing countries in international fora in order to secure their right to sustainable development, and to promote and articulate their economic and social interests. The principles of working together on global issues, making decisions and taking positions as one, and moving forward with new approaches to respond to the current challenging times, and our collective engagement to achieve the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, are some of the principles that define the Group of 77.

**It is crucial, therefore, that we keep standing together united as a whole group which believes in consensus as described by Plato through his dialogues “Crito and Protagoras”. We all know that consensus building often proves to be a laborious process which requires efforts, patience wisdom and time; but reaching consensus has been the driving force for the success of multilateral diplomacy and the efficiency of Vienna spirit**

In this regard, I would like to share with you some ideas and perspectives to be explored and harnessed for ensuring more visibility to our group and contributing for strengthening the Vienna consensus Spirit through a dynamic and collaborative approach between the 3 subgroups of G77 and the other regional groups:

#### ***First: sustainability of the 3 sub-groups of G77 (African, GRULAC and Asia groups)***

The 3 sub-groups are among the key elements for the sustainability of multilateral Network in terms of promoting collaborative actions for reaching consensus on issues of common interest. In other words, the 3 sub-groups contribution are outcome focused. Indeed, each sub-group aims to produce a contribution to be enhanced, sustained and supported as a successful input of the whole group (G77) to the international debate on global issues.

#### ***Second: Creativity of the 3 sub- groups of G77***

The creativity and sustainability of the sub-groups will develop ideas, proposals and actions to undertake regarding the multilateral initiatives and projects that we believe in their implementation for the interest of the international community as a creative and coordinate responses to the issues and challenges at hand.

### ***Third: Complementarity, synergy and dynamic between G77 and the other regional groups***

The dialogue with the other groups on the consensual topics and constructive initiatives could strengthen the Vienna consensus spirit as **Vienna multilateral architecture** offers us the possibility to interact positively between the G77 sub-groups and the other regional groups and to engage mutual support on technical cooperation, **keeping in mind that the more we interact in a dynamic, in closeness and togetherness , the more we will be able to reach the complementarity and synergy so anticipated**

#### ***Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen***

Within this collaborative approach of creativity, complementarity and sustainability, I would like to express my appreciation to the Heads of International Organizations and their representatives. Their presence among us today indicates and reaffirms our shared commitment and the importance they add to the work and activities of the Group of 77 in Vienna.

In this regard, and on behalf of the G-77, I would like to present the warmest welcome to Dr. Robert Floyd, who was appointed as Executive Secretary of CTBTO in August 2021, and Mr. Gerd Müller, who was appointed as Director General of UNIDO in December 2021. Let me here assure you both of the constructive support from the Group of 77 during your tenures as Executive Secretary and as Director General. Here, I would like to reiterate our will to continue working with all Vienna based Organizations to further consolidate and strengthen international cooperation as well as to address the priorities of our Member States, in order to sustain the development efforts of the members of the Group.

**It is my intention to engage a dialogue on a regular basis with all the members of the Group and Executive Heads of VBOs in order to promote and implement the G-77 priorities within a dynamic and collaborative approach, aiming at reinforcing a positive dialogue with the EU and other regional groups.**

#### ***Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen***

Before I conclude, let me thank UNIDO for financially supporting the Office of the G-77 since its establishment in 1998. I welcome the other Vienna based Organizations to extend their support and contribution towards the work of the G-77, particularly in the light of the need to reinforce the office. I will be particularly pleased of any financial contribution by the Executive Heads of the VBOs to the functioning of the Office.

I also take this opportunity, on behalf of the G-77 Vienna Chapter to express gratitude to Ms. Annemarie Heuls, Liaison Officer of the G-77 for her excellent support and dedicated work for our Group over the last 24 years with her team of dedicated interns.

Let me conclude by thanking once again all of you for your support and trust in carrying out this task. I herewith wish to announce the following G-77 Task Force Coordinators:

UNODC: African Group – Mr. Fernando Marques from Angola

IAEA: Asia Pacific Group – Mr. Amir Saeed from Pakistan

CTBTO: GRULAC – Mr. Renato Gomez Opodo from Chile

COPUOS: Asia Pacific Group – Ms. Andrea Lynn Lazaro from the Philippines

UNCITRAL: African Group – Mr. Hanaan Asaku from Ghana and

UNIDO: Asia Pacific Group – Mr. Essam Alraggad from Jordan

I pledge before you that the task force leaders and I will do our best to ensure the collective success of our Group. I look forward to your support and cooperation.

**I thank you.**