



Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I am very pleased to be here with all of you, the representatives of the G-77.
- I congratulate you, **Ambassador Farhane**, on your election as the Chairperson of the Group. I learned that this is the first time for **Morocco** to assume this post in the 24-year history of the G-77 Vienna Chapter.
- I have worked very closely with Morocco during my time as German Development Minister. **I look forward to continuing this strong cooperation between the G-77 and UNIDO under your leadership.**
- Let me also thank **Ambassador Solano Ortiz of Costa Rica** for his leadership as Chairperson in 2021. **You did an excellent job!** We met many times in 2021 and I thank you for your guidance and support!
- **The Group of 77 is the most important constituency of UNIDO – three quarters of UNIDO’s member states are from the G-77.**
- So my first official engagement is to be here with you for the handover ceremony of the Vienna Chapter of the G-77.
- **We are currently facing three crises:** COVID-19 has become a polypandemic with the consequence of a health, hunger, economic and financial crisis.
- The second huge challenge is climate change and the third the accelerating loss of biodiversity!
- Developing and middle-income countries are hit the hardest. With UNIDO, **I want to build bridges between LDCs, MICs and industrialized countries.**

Excellencies,

- For almost 60 years now, the G77 is working hard for developing countries to reduce poverty, and to promote economic growth and participation in global markets.
- **There is some progress.** Over the past 25 years, we have reduced the number of people living in extreme poverty by half.
- **But we have to achieve more.** Over 750 million people still live on less than 1.25 US dollars per day. Due to COVID, 250 million jobs were lost in 2020 alone.
- We need **solidarity and stronger international cooperation** to face the challenges of today and tomorrow.
- **Under my leadership, UNIDO will be your partner – an even stronger partner - for political advice, technical support, innovation and investment.**
- Together, we need to give a voice to the needs and interests of the G-77. **We need to create jobs for the young people around the world, to end hunger, poverty and inequality.**

Excellencies,

- **I look forward to working closely with all G-77 nations over the next four years.**
- **I will seek your views and get into a regular dialogue with your Chair, Ambassador Farhane, to develop the UNIDO 2025 Programme.**

Thank you so much.