



**STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA AT THE LAUNCH OF THE
UNOV/UNODC STRATEGY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT 2022-2026, 15 JUNE 2022
DELIVERED BY H.E. AZZEDDINE FARHANE, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

His Excellency Ambassador Markovic,
Mme. Executive Director,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, allow me to thank you for the invitation to attend this honorable meeting focused on the gender equality and women's empowerment. You can count on the support of the Group for the successful implementation of the strategy 2022-2026.
2. Gender equality is a common objective that is based on our unequivocal conviction on the equal rights of women, men, girls and boys, as it has been recognised in Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. The Group is concerned with the current situation of the gender equality and women's empowerment around the world, and in this regard, would like to highlight the particular challenge faced by developing countries, where insufficient educational, economic and technological opportunities aggravate poverty and gender inequality.
4. The Group welcomes the UNOV/UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2022-2026 and 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.
5. 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 underlines the importance of respecting and implementing this principle in the composition of UNODC staff.
6. The Group also requests the Executive Director to consider the insertion of relevant projects of UNODC, in a consultative, open, transparent and inclusive manner, aiming at the improvement of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the developing countries, upon request.
7. Finally the Group encourages UNODC to continue working in order to achieve the implementation of the Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2022-2026.

Thank you.