



**GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA STATEMENT AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
RECONVENED 65th SESSION OF THE CND AND THE RECONVENED 31st
SESSION OF THE CCPCJ ON 8 AND 9 DECEMBER 2022,**

**DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AZZEDDINE FARHANE,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO**

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 Takeshi Hikihara of Japan and Ambassador Ghislain D'Hoop of Belgium for their co-chairpersonship of the joint meeting of the two Commissions.
3. Allow me on behalf of the Group to express 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.
4. The Group reiterates the significance of the 'standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime' (FINGOV) and 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.
5. 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's engagement with FINGOV, encourages the participation of the Executive Director, Madame Ghada Fathi Waly and recalls 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.
6. The Group reiterates the importance of improving and expanding UNODC regional and country programmes and projects in developing countries and requests the UNODC to address the financial challenges and difficulties in the process of their full implementation.
7. The Group stresses that projects funded by voluntary contributions should be aligned with the UNODC's mandates and the Group member states' priorities to address the main global challenges in the fields of drugs and crime.
8. The Group calls upon UNODC to implement the consolidated budget, in a transparent, accessible and inclusive manner and, while welcoming voluntary contributions, the Group expresses its concern with the findings of the report of the Executive Director, which informs that ear-marked contributions have hindered the ability of UNODC to strategically manage its operations, improve upon its management processes, exercise effective corporate oversight, fund key activities and launch new initiatives and programmes.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

9. 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 their request and priorities. In the same vein, the Group emphasizes the need for efficient utilization of such resources to ensure long-term sustainability.

10. 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.

11. 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 transparency, regular dialogue and close consultations between Member States and UNODC regarding the ongoing and planned publications and research activities at all stages.

12. The Group welcomes the UNODC's efforts to improve the validity, reliability and accuracy of research sources and methodology, including through engagement of member states in collection of data in drug and crime. In this regard, the Group would like to emphasise that data provided by member states should be properly considered as an essential basis for UNODC's research activities, while noting the contributions that other sources can make.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

13. The Group requests the Executive Director of UNODC to ensure equitable and geographical representation, enhanced participation of women, as well as to redouble efforts towards gender equality and women's empowerment in all areas of its mandate with due recognition of the qualifications of candidates.

14. The Group also requests the Executive Director of UNODC to report regularly on the progress of such measures to the Commissions.

15. 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 including in regional and national senior management officers.

16. 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.

17. The Group 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 calls upon the UNODC to continue and reinforce its efforts in this regard and urges to take the appropriate measures to implement current multilingualism policies.

18. In conclusion, the Group recognizes the need for an early preparation of the Commissions for the next regular meetings in 2023. The Group is of the firm belief that we should not shorten the time for 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. Therefore, the Group calls upon 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.