



**Briefing by Ms. Ghada Waly, Director General and Executive Director of
UNOV/UNODC with G-77 Ambassadors and delegates
Opening remarks delivered by H.E. Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane, Permanent
Representative of Morocco and Chairperson of the G-77 for 2022
Thursday, 5 May 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**

Excellencies

Madam Ghada Waly, Director General and Executive Director of UNOV/UNODC

First of all, I would like to warmly thank your Excellency Madam Ghada Waly for addressing the G77, for the first time, in an in-person meeting, and to interact with the G77 about your priorities and UNODC strategies launched during the difficult times of the COVID 19 pandemic. In my capacity as the Chairperson of the Group of 77, **positive consultations, productive dialogue and close interaction** between the Group and Heads of the Vienna-based Organizations remains my priority. **Today's meeting with your Excellency is a part of these efforts.**

It is really a **matter of pride for us that Director General and Executive Director of UNOV/UNODC Madam Ghada Waly belongs to the G-77 family.** Your presence with us today is a **clear message that the shared objectives, which bring the G-77 together, and the ideals which drive it, remain close to you.**

It is satisfying for the Group to note that under your leadership, UNODC has launched a **Strategic vision for Africa 2030 and Latin America and the Caribbean for 2022-2025**, as well as the implementation of the ambitious Regional Program (RP) for **2022-2026 for the Southeast Asia and Pacific region (SEAP).** These strategies aim, *grosso modo*, at **strengthening crime prevention, enhancing justice system, ensuring a balanced response to drugs, improving the rule of law, bolstering resilience** and contributing, *in fine*, **efficiently to international efforts for tackling the most pressing challenges and threats to sustainable development in our times.**

The G77 countries belong to a **region characterized by its asymmetry in terms of development**, aggravated by the COVID19 pandemic, **which triggers the emergence of problems in some regions and countries and opportunities in others**, especially in the field of **local capacity building and strengthening of national institutions.**

The G77 considers UNODC as a **valid and necessary partner.** **Close cooperation and collaborative approach** could facilitate the achievement of sustainable development goals, by strengthening the **UNODC presence in G77 countries space**, through its regional and country offices, **by increasing its technical, material and human capacity, deepening and broadening the areas of action within the scope of the UNODC mandate.**

Today, DG Waly will talk **about UNODC priorities and initiatives** in details and share updates on their implementation. I am confident that this briefing will enhance **the Group's collective understating of these initiatives**, in particular on how members of the G77 can both contribute to and benefit from these initiatives.

May I first invite your Excellency to brief the Group and then I will open the floor for comments and questions from delegations.

Madam Director General, the floor is yours.