



**GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA STATEMENT AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
RECONVENED 66th SESSION OF THE CND AND THE RECONVENED 32nd
SESSION OF THE CCPCJ ON 7 AND 8 DECEMBER 2023,
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AFTAB AHMAD KHOKHER,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN**

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 Miguel Camilo Ruiz Blanco of Colombia and welcomes Ambassador Azzeddine Farhane of Morocco for their leadership and co-chairpersonship of this joint meeting of the two Commissions. The Group also appreciates Ambassador Mary Mugwanja of Kenya for her leadership and for chairing the 32nd Session of the CCPCJ until her recent departure from Vienna.
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 also appreciates all initiatives and efforts of its Member States, which contribute to the work of both Commissions, including, inter alia, through tabling resolutions.
5. 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.
6. The Group reiterates its appreciation to Ambassador Philbert Isaac Kobina Abaka Johnson of Ghana for his efforts in guiding the deliberations of FINGOV and extends support to him as the incoming Chair of the 67th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including its high-level segment for the midterm review.
7. The Group recalls the decision to have a meeting with the Executive Director, at least once a year, since the top management’s engagement with FINGOV allows timely and dynamic responsiveness to the needs and concerns of States, particularly in times of rapid change. In this regard, the Group welcomes the participation of the Executive Director, Madame Ghada Fathi Waly, in some of these meetings and encourages the continuation of such practice.
8. 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.
9. The Group also calls upon all Member States to avoid unilateral actions and sanctions on developing countries that weaken the international cooperation framework

and impede Member States capabilities for the achievement of the goals of CCPCJ and the CND.

10. 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.

11. 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. In this regard, the Group calls for an increase in contributions to the general purpose fund as well as an increase in unear-marked contributions. The Group also stresses that contributions should not allow for discrimination of any Member States.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

12. The Group reiterates the importance of adequate, predictable, stable and sustainable funding to enable UNODC 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.

13. The Group welcomes the recent efforts of the Secretariat to keep Member States informed 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 continue reporting to the upcoming sessions of the Commissions on this issue. So far, progress has been made, nonetheless, the Group requests for more engagement with the Secretariat including by providing systematic, concrete and user-friendly information not only on UNODC's headquarters efforts and implications, but specially on how these reforms have affected and improved its work on the field.

14. 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. In this regard, the Group stresses the importance that the publications of UNODC shall be impartial, respect the cultural diversity of Member States and solely depend on language that is in accordance with the relevant consensual UN resolutions.

15. 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 may make.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

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

17. The Group expresses its concern regarding the current representation of the developing countries in UNODC, according to the detailed report, disaggregated by nationality, presented to the Member States in FINGOV meeting. The Group also underlines the importance of respecting and implementing the principle of equitable geographical representation in the composition of UNODC staff including in regional and national senior management officers. In this regard, the Group calls upon UNODC to ensure that this principle apply to posts within the UN Secretariat regardless of the source of funding and to take serious and concrete measures to improve the representation of developing countries in line with General Assembly resolutions.

18. The Group requests the ED of UNODC to report regularly on the progress of measures taken on the aforementioned matters pertaining to equitable and balanced representation during the upcoming meetings of FINGOV as well as at the joint meeting of the Reconvened Sessions of the Commissions in 2024.

19. 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.

20. In conclusion, the Group recognizes the need for an early preparation of the Commissions for the next regular meetings in 2024. 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.