

Statements delivered in 2023 on behalf of the G-77 and China under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Aftab A. Khoker, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

# UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)



## G-77 and China Statement during the UNIDO PBC 39<sup>th</sup> Session, delivered by HE Mr Azzeddine FARHANE, Permanent Representative of Morocco, 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

#### Agenda item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2022

Chair,

- 1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I congratulate you, Excellency Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, on your election as Chair of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) of UNIDO, at its 39<sup>th</sup> session. I also congratulate the other Members of the Bureau on their election. We are confident that under your able leadership, we will have fruitful deliberations during this session.
- 2. We assure you of our full cooperation and active participation in the Session. We will endeavour to make your work easier, by contribution meaningfully on matters pertinent to the Group.
- 3. The Group would like to commend His Excellency Ambassador Alessandro Cortese, Permanent Representative of Italy, and members of his Bureau for the sterling work they carried out during the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the PBC.
- 4. The Group takes note of the introductory remarks by Director General Gerd Müller and reassures him of its support for his leadership of UNIDO. In particular, the Group appreciates the Director General's ongoing efforts to implement the ambitious, timely and much needed reforms to reduce costs, modernize the Organization and make it more efficient, in line with the needs of Member States, in particular developing countries.
- 5. The Group also wishes to thank the Secretariat for the preparatory work, including the timely issuance of documents for the session.
- 6. Concerning the agenda item 3, the Group expresses its appreciation to the Director General for the Annual Report of UNIDO for 2022 covering the reform initiatives, achievements and improvements made, as well as challenges faced by the Organization during the past year. The Group wishes to provide the following remarks on the report.
- 7. At the outset, the Group welcomes the implementation of the organizational reform programmes and the 17 per cent increase in the implementation of technical projects in 2022, especially in the areas of climate and environmental protection, food security and renewable energies, for the purpose of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States.
- 8. The Group reaffirms the great importance it attaches to all the initiatives, activities, and programmes implemented or planned by the Organization during the period covered in the report. We encourage the Director General and the Secretariat to continue working towards full implementation of the Organization's mandate, in order to put developing countries and economies in transition on the path towards economic and social prosperity through industrialization.
- 9. The Group commends UNIDO for the technical assistance, policy advice and capacity building programmes it provided to Member States, particularly developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and encourages UNIDO to strengthen its work in areas of

cooperation on industrial parks, industrial policy, development of SMEs and employment, green development, circular economy, digitalization and innovation, while exploring cooperation in new areas such as green hydrogen. We also encourage UNIDO to continue to strengthen partnerships, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing among Member States and other stakeholders, including through South-South, North-South, and triangular cooperation.

- 10. The Group recognizes the importance of resource mobilization and encourages UNIDO to explore ways of channeling climate finance funds to the implementation of projects on the basis of climate vulnerability of the related countries.
- 11. The Group notes with appreciation UNIDO's continued contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by participating in various activities throughout 2022, including the IDB submission of an input document to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in 2022 as the HLPF reviewed SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 and further notes that the input document to the HLPF for 2023 has not been adopted.
- 12. The Group further notes with satisfaction that the amount of funding secured in the past year from external sources for the implementation of UNIDO projects and programmes amounted to US\$ 621.9 million, of which US\$ 200.00 million has been mobilized and US\$ 180.3 utilized in 2022. This achievement is a testament to UNIDO's relevance as a key player among global development organizations.
- 13. Regarding Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs), the Group has followed, with keen interest, the implementation of PCPs in Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zambia. We strongly encourage UNIDO to expand PCPs to other members of the Group, upon their request. We also attach great importance to the successful implementation of various activities under the framework of Country Programmes (CPs) in Member States.
- 14. Finally, the Group welcomes significant progress in the implementation of the Medium-Term Programme Framework (MTPF) for 2022-2025 and the application of Integrated Results and Performance Framework (IRPF) in preparation of this report. Such improvement allows for a clearer comparison and analysis of the Organization's achievements both in quantitative and qualitative terms, and therefore should continue in future reports.
- 15. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Annual Report of the Director General for 2022 as contained in document IDB.51/2 PBC.39/2.

Thank you, Chair.



## G-77 and China Statement during the UNIDO PBC 39<sup>th</sup> Session, delivered by HE Mr Mohamed Hamdy Mohamed ELMOLLA, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

#### Agenda item 4: Report of the External Auditor for 2022

Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the Report of the External Auditor on the accounts of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for the financial year starting from 1 January to 31 December 2022, as contained in Document IDB.51/3 PBC.39/3 and expresses appreciation to Mr. Alexei Kudrin and the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation for this report.
- 2. The Group welcomes the continuation of the approach by the External Auditor to focus on three main areas of audit, namely, financial audit, performance audit and IT audit, with the aim of providing the best overview of the operations of UNIDO while keeping focus on risks and the interests of key stakeholders.
- 3. The Group is pleased with the sustained use of the classification system to categorize the findings and recommendations as either critical, high, medium, or low priority in terms of actions to be undertaken. We remain of the view that this methodology is a useful tool to make maximum use of UNIDO's limited resources. In this regard, we note that, of the recommendations by the External Auditor, 3 are considered of critical priority, 8 are of high priority, 11 are of medium priority, and 4 are deemed of low priority. Nonetheless, the Group encourages the Organization to fully implement all these recommendations on an equal basis.
- 4. We however note with concern that of the 67 recommendations from prior years that have been validated by the External Auditor, only 35 have been implemented while implementation of 14 are ongoing and 18 have not been implemented at all. We call upon UNIDO to strengthen its efforts to improve its rate of compliance with the recommendations of the External Auditor. We urge the Organization to continue working on the partially resolved observations and to address the open and ongoing issues in the report, regardless of their identified priority rankings.
- 5. We are concerned that, just like the previous year, the three critical issues identified by the External Auditor continue to be in the area of Information Technology General Controls, with only one of them remediated and two not remediated. We strongly urge UNIDO to carry on applying measures to strengthen its IT infrastructure and close the gaps in its systems to protect system integrity and data consistency.
- 6. We continue to note that funding for After Service Health Insurance, or ASHI, remains an area of concern as one of the long-term liabilities for the Organization, and we look forward to continuing the discussion in the Informal Working Group on PBC-related issues with the view to arriving at a viable solution to this issue.
- 7. Concluding, the Group strongly encourages the Organization to carry on with its initiatives that aim at streamlining, rationalizing, capacitating, and improving UNIDO's management and operation, particularly with regard to the Organization's accountability mechanisms.



## G-77 and China Statement during the UNIDO PBC $39^{th}$ Session, delivered by HE Mrs Evangelina Lourdes BERNAS, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines $15^{th}-17^{th}$ May 2023

#### Agenda item 6: Report of the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues

Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China continues to appreciate the work of the Informal Working Group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues (IWG) and is particularly grateful for the dedication and leadership of the co-chairs from Poland and India.
- 2. The Group is appreciative of the mandate of the IWG and believes it is a valuable platform for both the Secretariat and Member States to deliberate and explore possible recommendations on important issues, including the programme and budgets of UNIDO. The Group also believes that the mandate of the IWG has the potential to be expanded further to include discussions on emergent issues within the overall mandate and objectives of UNIDO.
- 3. The Group takes note of the topics that have been identified and considered in 2022 by the IWG. The topics like efficiency and effectiveness of the programme and budgets implementation, the financial situation of UNIDO and other related matters like women empowerment and personnel matters; are of great interest to members of the Group, who continue to look forward to participating in the discussions on these matters in the IWG.
- 4. The Group encourages all Member States to continue participating in the meetings of the IWG.

I thank you, Chair.



## G-77 and China Statement during the UNIDO PBC 39<sup>th</sup> Session, delivered by HE Mrs Evangelina Lourdes BERNAS, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

#### Agenda item 5: Financial situation of UNIDO, including unutilized balances of appropriations

Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report by the Director General on the Financial Situation of UNIDO as contained in document IDB.51/4-PBC.39/4 and welcomes the marginal improvement in the rate of collection of 2023 assessed contributions as compared to those of 2022 and 2021 and commends Member States that have paid their assessed contributions on time.
- 2. The Group encourages all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time in order to maintain a healthy and stable financial outlook for the Organization. Predictable, sufficient, and assured funding remains vital for UNIDO to effectively deliver its core mandate of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States, particularly developing countries. In this regard, the Group also recognizes difficulties some Member States experience for reasons beyond their control in paying their full contributions on time.
- 3. The Group takes note of the improvement in the rate of collection of prior years' arrears, which is now 4.3 percent, up from 3.6 percent in 2022. In this regard, the Group encourages the Members States in arrears to consider concluding multi-year payment plans to settle outstanding assessed contributions.
- 4. The Group also appreciates the efforts of the Director General to reach out to former Member States to settle their arrears including advances to the Working Capital Fund and urges him to continue his efforts to improve the financial situation of the Organization. The Group also encourages the Director General to further expand the discussions with former Member States to include the possibility of their return to the Organization.
- 5. The Group also wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Donor Governments, international financial institutions, the European Union and other partners from the donor community for their contributions. The Group strongly encourages UNIDO to exert more efforts towards resource mobilization for its activities to attain inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
- 6. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the draft decision on this agenda item.

I thank you, Chair.



### G-77 and China Statement during the UNIDO PBC 39<sup>th</sup> Session, delivered by Mr. Hasan Abbas, Permanent Mission of Pakistan 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Agenda item 16: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) as contained in document IDB.51/15 PBC.39/15 which highlights the progress made in the implementation of IDDA III.
- 2. The Group underscores UNIDO's role as the central coordinating agency within the United Nations system responsible for fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States. To this end, the Group expresses its appreciation to the Director General of UNIDO for initiating the process for the development of a UNIDO Africa Strategy, which will provide a common guiding framework for the Organization's interventions in promoting industrial development in Africa and urges the Director General to continue the consultations with Member States and all stakeholders and provide regular updates on progress of the development of the Strategy with the aim of completing the process before the 20th session of the General Conference.
- 3. The Group appreciates UNIDO's various initiatives on the continent of Africa, including technical assistance activities, collaborative efforts, global forums and advocacy, and normative activities aimed at firmly anchoring Africa on the path towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
- 4. The Group welcomes the collaboration between UNIDO, the African Union Commission (AUC) and other stakeholders in organizing the 17<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government on Africa's Industrialization and Economic Diversification which was held in Niamey, Niger, from 20<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and the subsequent development of an action plan for the implementation of the decisions of the Session. The Group urges UNIDO to continue supporting and mobilizing IDDA III partners for the successful implementation of the Action Plan.
- 5. The Group further welcomes the development of the draft UNIDO LDC Strategy which was presented to the 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on Least Development Countries (UN LDC 5) held in Doha, Qatar from 5<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The Group wishes to encourage UNIDO to work towards achieving synergy between the Africa Strategy and the LDC Strategy to avoid overlap and ensure consistency in the implementation of the Organization's industrial development initiatives.
- 6. The Group notes with appreciation that, in 2022, UNIDO had more than 250 projects under implementation in Africa totalling \$63.3 million excluding interregional and global portfolios, within the framework of Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CP).

Chair,

- 7. The Group also acknowledges with appreciation UNIDO's activities aimed at enhancing the capacities of African countries to benefit from the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution. The Group notes UNIDO's unique position to offer strategic support in technology transfer, knowledge sharing and capacity building through educational and vocational training with enhanced focus on African women and youth.
- 8. To further enhance economic growth on the African continent, the Group encourages UNIDO to align with the core objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). In this regard, emphasis should be placed on building systemic resilience through local manufacturing, energy efficiency through sustainable alternatives, green technology, harmonization of standards, and building local and human capacity to respond to both internal and external shocks.
- 9. Taking into account the approaching conclusion of the designated term of IDDA III, the Group underscores the importance of the full implementation of the IDDA III Joint Roadmap and remains hopeful that the IDDA III Secretariat will play a more coordinated role in implementing the Joint Roadmap.
- 10. The Group also encourages UNIDO to continue collaborating with Member States, strategic development partners, other United Nations and inter-governmental agencies, as well as development finance institutions to support the implementation of objectives of the IDDA III. Maintaining synergies between UNIDO and the African Union will contribute towards building technical competencies and policy knowledge for the development and implementation of regional and continental industrial initiatives.

Chair,

11. To conclude, the Group of 77 and China appreciates UNIDO's continued contributions to Africa's socio-economic development through the vehicle of the IDDA III.

Thank you, Chair.



## G-77 and China Statement during the UNIDO PBC 39<sup>th</sup> Session, delivered by Mr. Hasan Abbas, Permanent Mission of Pakistan 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

#### Agenda item 7: Programme and Budget, 2024-2025

#### Chair,

- 1. The Group takes note of the proposed Programme and Budget 2024-2025 as presented in document IDB.51/6 PBC39/6, which contains the proposals of the Director General for the biennium 2024-2025.
- 2. The Group also notes that the proposed Programme and Budget 2024-2025 is prepared based on results-based budgeting principles, in compliance with General Conference decision GC.18/Dec.14. This is the second time that UNIDO has adopted this approach in such a comprehensive and consolidated manner, following the General Conference decision.
- 3. The Group further notes, with appreciation, the Director General's proposal to increase technical cooperation delivery to Member States by up to 25 per cent during the 2024-2025 biennium.
- 4. The Group recognizes the challenges working within limited resources, balancing savings and income with expenditure and obligations, and coping with shifting demands due to difficult global circumstances occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate change and the energy crisis, which have negatively impacted many Member States. We therefore call on UNIDO to come up with a realistic budget that takes into account the circumstances of Member States without sacrificing the quality of service delivered to stakeholders, particularly in the area of technical cooperation.
- 5. Regarding budget flexibility, the Group encourages UNIDO to come up with a solution that ensures that the Organization is responsibly flexible in terms of moving resources between objects of expenditure to deal with future exigencies.
- 6. The Group takes note of the ongoing rebranding of the Special Account of Voluntary Contributions for Core Activities (SAVCCA) to Innovation and Transformation Fund (ITF), and urges UNIDO to place at the heart of the rebranding efforts the value to be derived from such an endeavour.
- 7. While the Group welcomes the Director General's reform initiatives aimed at increasing technical cooperation and ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of UNIDO, including by improving human resources management and gender mainstreaming, it also continues to convey its request for the Director General to enhance efforts to recruit and promote professionals from under-represented regions, especially at higher management positions.

#### Mr. Chair,

8. On a related note, with regard to the scale of assessments under agenda item 8, the Group is of the view that the maximum assessment rate for any Member State of UNIDO should not

exceed 22% in line with the approved assessment rate of the United Nations and the well established practice by UNIDO.

Thank you, Chair.



## G-77 and China Statement during the Closing of the UNIDO PBC 39<sup>th</sup> Session, delivered by Mr. Bolivar L. Bao, Permanent Mission of the Philippines 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

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- 1. The Group of 77 and China extends its warmest congratulations to you and your Bureau on the successful conclusion of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the Programme and Budget Committee. The Group greatly appreciates your leadership in the effort to bring the Committee to consensus despite the diverging positions we have encountered.
- 2. The Group also expresses its appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent support they have given to make this session of the PBC as smooth as possible.

Mister Chair,

- 3. The Group of 77 and China reiterates its support for UNIDO in the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Its ability to deliver this mandate, especially for developing countries, is crucial, and the Group recognizes that for this to happen, the Organization must be assured that it will be able to continue to function optimally.
- 4. The Group, therefore, welcomes the adoption of the Organization's Programme and Budget for the biennium 2024-2025, and we commend all delegations for showing flexibility in this very important process.
- 5. The Group, nevertheless, remains cognizant that there are still many things that need to be addressed in the days ahead in order to ensure that the concerns raised by many delegations are adequately answered. The Group believes that continuing dialogue between Member States and UNIDO is necessary for us to come to an understanding of how best the Organization could serve its constituency, which are the Member States.
- 6. The Group, therefore, requests UNIDO through the Director General to remain engaged in discussions with the Member States ahead of the upcoming session of the Industrial Development Board to ensure that our voices and concerns are heard and considered, with the view to resolving any remaining questions.



## G-77 and China statement during the UNIDO Industrial Development Board, 51<sup>st</sup> session, 3-6 July 2023, delivered by H.E. Jaideep Mazumdar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India

Mr. President,

- 1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the IDB. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau for their election. The Group is confident that, under your able leadership, the IDB will draw to a successful and fruitful conclusion.
- 2. The Group would also like to thank His Excellency Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica and President of the 50<sup>th</sup> session, and members of the Bureau for their hard work and dedication during the previous session.
- 3. The Group takes note of the introductory remarks by Director General Gerd Müller and wishes to reassure him of its support for his leadership of UNIDO. In particular, the Group appreciates the Director General's ongoing efforts to implement the ambitious, timely and much needed reforms to reduce costs, modernize the Organization and make it more efficient, in line with the needs and priorities of Member States, in particular developing countries.
- 4. The Group also wishes to thank the Secretariat for organizing this session. Concerning the agenda items for this session, the Group will address agenda items 3, 4 (a), (b), (c), (f) and (j), 5, 9, 10, and 11.

#### Agenda item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2022

Mr. President, on the present agenda item,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to the Director General for the Annual Report of UNIDO for 2022 covering the reform initiatives, achievements and improvements made, as well as challenges faced by the Organization during the past year. The Group recalls the statement it made during the 39<sup>th</sup> PBC on this agenda item and wishes to reiterate the following points on the report.
- 2. At the outset, the Group welcomes the implementation of the organizational reform programmes and the 17 per cent increase in the implementation of technical projects in 2022, especially in the areas of climate change and environmental protection, food security and renewable energies, for the purpose of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States.
- 3. The Group reaffirms the great importance it attaches to all the initiatives, activities, and programmes implemented or planned by the Organization during the period covered in the report. We encourage the Director General and the Secretariat to continue working towards full implementation of the Organization's mandate, in order to put developing countries and economies in transition on the path towards economic and social prosperity through industrialization.
- 4. The Group commends UNIDO for the technical assistance, policy advice and capacity building programmes it provided to Member States, particularly developing countries, and encourages UNIDO to strengthen its work in areas of cooperation on industrial parks, industrial

policy, development of SMEs and employment, green development, circular economy, digitalization and innovation, while exploring cooperation in new areas such as green hydrogen. We also encourage UNIDO to continue to strengthen partnerships, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing among Member States and other stakeholders, including through South-South, North-South, and triangular cooperation.

- 5. The Group recognizes the importance of resource mobilization and encourages UNIDO to explore ways of channeling climate finance funds to the implementation of projects, taking into account, inter alia, the climate vulnerability of the developing countries.
- 6. The Group notes with appreciation UNIDO's continued contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by participating in various activities, including the IDB submission of input documents to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development.
- 7. The Group further notes with satisfaction that the amount of funding secured in the past year from external sources for the implementation of UNIDO projects and programmes amounted to US\$ 621.9 million, of which US\$ 200.00 million has been mobilized and US\$ 180.3 utilized in 2022. We highlight that improving the mobilizations of funds lies at the heart of the delivery and the effectiveness of development cooperation activities and that the results represent a marginal increase of approximately US\$ 900,000 over the value of technical cooperation delivered in 2021.
- 8. Regarding Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs), the Group has followed, with keen interest, the implementation of PCPs in Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Zambia. We also attach great importance to the successful implementation of various activities under the framework of Country Programmes (CPs) in Member States. We strongly encourage UNIDO to expand both PCPs and CPs to other members of the Group, upon their request.
- 9. Finally, the Group welcomes the significant progress made in the implementation of the Medium-Term Programme Framework (MTPF) for 2022-2025 and the application of Integrated Results and Performance Framework (IRPF) in preparation of this report. In future reports, the Group encourages the provision of indicators for comparison and analysis of the Organization's achievements both in quantitative and qualitative terms.
- 10. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Annual Report of the Director General for 2022 as contained in document IDB.51/2.

I thank you, Mr. President.

## G-77 and China statement during the UNIDO Industrial Development Board, 51<sup>st</sup> session, 3-6 July 2023, delivered by H.E. Ms. Mary Wangui Mugwanja, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya

#### Agenda item 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

Mr. President,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China would like to convey its appreciation to H.E. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan and Chair of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the Programme and Budget Committee, for the Report of the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC).
- 2. The Group wishes to recall the points it had raised during the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the PBC, and reiterates the following:

#### (a) On the Report of the External Auditor for 2022

Bearing in mind the points it raised on this agenda item at the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the PBC, the Group of 77 and China strongly urges UNIDO to fully implement all the findings and recommendations of the External Auditor for 2022 on an equal basis, regardless of the level of importance and priority assigned to them in the report, as well as to work on closing the remaining unresolved, partially resolved, and still-open findings of the previous and prior audit years, as the Group considers all of these recommendations to be particularly pertinent to ensure that the Organization functions as efficiently and effectively as possible.

#### (b) On the Financial situation of UNIDO, including unutilized balances of appropriations

The Group encourages all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time in order to maintain a healthy and stable financial outlook for the Organization. Predictable, sufficient, and assured funding remains vital for UNIDO to effectively deliver its core mandate of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States, particularly developing countries. In this regard, the Group also recognizes difficulties some Member States experience for reasons beyond their control in paying their full contributions on time. The Group further requests the Director General to continue holding discussions with all former Member States to encourage them to rejoin the Organization.

#### (c) On the Report by the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee-related issues (IWG)

The Group of 77 and China would like to emphasize its appreciation of the mandate of the IWG and believes that it is a valuable platform for both the Secretariat and Member States to deliberate and explore possible recommendations on important issues, including the programme and budgets of UNIDO and, therefore, encourages all Member States to continue participating in the meetings of the IWG. The Group supports the discussions on the creation of a levy on voluntary contributions by non-contributing parties, as a way to strengthen the regular budget and encourages non-contributing parties to engage in the debate.

#### (f) On the mobilization of financial resources

The Group maintains the view that a sufficient, assured and predictable funding is vital for UNIDO to effectively deliver its core mandate and activities and encourages the donor community to continue their contributions to UNIDO's programmable funds, including dedicated trust funds and special purpose funding at the country, regional or global level. The Group also encourages the Director General to continue searching for diverse and innovative funding resources, as well as to work on initiatives aimed at the efficient use of available resources.

In this regard, the Group takes note of the ongoing rebranding of the Special Account of Voluntary Contributions for Core Activities (SAVCCA) to Innovation and Transformation Fund (ITF) and urges UNIDO to place at the heart of the rebranding efforts the value to be derived from such an endeavour.

The Group welcomes the recommendation of the PBC pertaining to the preparation of strategic guidelines on partnerships and resource mobilization.

#### (j) On budget flexibility

The Group takes note of the different views expressed by Member States with regard to the budget flexibilities proposed by the Secretariat with a view to improving budget management.

3. With this statement, the Group of 77 and China takes notes of the Report of the Programme and Budget Committee.

Thank you, Mr. President.

## G-77 and China statement during the UNIDO Industrial Development Board, 51st session, 3-6 July 2023, delivered by H.E. Mr. Holger Federico Martinsen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Argentina

#### Agenda item 5: Programme and Budgets, 2024-2025

Mr. President,

- 1. The Group takes note of the proposed Programme and Budgets 2024-2025 as presented in document IDB.51/6 and the adjustments made to the proposal, as contained in document IDB.51/6/Add.1.
- 2. The Group also notes that the proposed Programme and Budgets 2024-2025 is prepared based on results-based budgeting principles, in compliance with General Conference decision GC.18/Dec.14. This is the second time that UNIDO has adopted this approach in such a comprehensive and consolidated manner, following the General Conference decision.
- 3. The Group further notes, with appreciation, the Director General's proposal to increase technical cooperation delivery to Member States by up to 25 per cent during the 2024-2025 biennium.
- 4. The Group recognizes the challenges working within limited resources, balancing savings and income with expenditure and obligations, and coping with shifting demands due to cascading difficult global circumstances including the climate change, the energy and food crises, which have negatively impacted many Member States. We therefore welcome the adjustments made to the initial programme and budgets proposals aimed at taking into account the circumstances of Member States without sacrificing the quality of service delivered to stakeholders, particularly in the area of technical cooperation.
- 5. While the Group welcomes the Director General's reform initiatives aimed at increasing technical cooperation and ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of UNIDO, including by improving human resources management and gender mainstreaming, it also continues to convey its request for the Director General to enhance efforts to recruit and promote professionals from under-represented regions, especially at higher management positions.

Thank you, Mr. President.

## G-77 and China statement during the UNIDO Industrial Development Board, 51st session, 3-6 July 2023, delivered by H.E. Mr. Vasco Mushe Samupofu, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Namibia

#### **Agenda Item 9: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III)**

Mr. President,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) as contained in document IDB.51/15 which highlights the progress made in the implementation of IDDA III.
- 2. The Group underscores UNIDO's role as the central coordinating agency within the United Nations system responsible for fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States. To this end, the Group expresses its appreciation to the Director General of UNIDO for initiating the process for the development of a UNIDO Africa Strategy, which will provide a common guiding framework for the Organization's interventions in promoting industrial development in Africa and urges the Director General to continue the consultations with Member States and all stakeholders and provide regular updates on progress of the development of the Strategy with the aim of completing the process before the 20th session of the General Conference.
- 3. The Group appreciates UNIDO's various initiatives on the continent of Africa, including technical assistance activities, collaborative efforts, global forums and advocacy, and normative activities aimed at firmly anchoring Africa on the path towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
- 4. The Group welcomes the collaboration between UNIDO, the African Union Commission (AUC) and other stakeholders in organizing the 17th Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government on Africa's Industrialization and Economic Diversification which was held in Niamey, Niger, from 20th 25th November 2022 and the subsequent development of an action plan for the implementation of the decisions of the Session. The Group urges UNIDO to continue supporting and mobilizing IDDA III partners for the successful implementation of the Action Plan.
- 5. The Group further welcomes the development of the draft UNIDO LDC Strategy which was presented to the 5th United Nations Conference on Least Development Countries (UN LDC 5) held in Doha, Qatar from 5th 9th March 2023. The Group wishes to encourage UNIDO to work towards achieving synergy between the Africa Strategy and the LDC Strategy to avoid overlap and ensure consistency in the implementation of the Organization's industrial development initiatives.
- 6. The Group notes with appreciation that, in 2022, UNIDO had more than 250 projects under implementation in Africa totalling \$63.3 million excluding interregional and global

portfolios, within the framework of Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CP).

#### Mr. President,

- 7. The Group also acknowledges with appreciation UNIDO's activities aimed at enhancing the capacities of African countries to benefit from the 4th Industrial Revolution. The Group notes UNIDO's unique position to offer strategic support in technology transfer, knowledge sharing and capacity building through educational and vocational training with enhanced focus on African women and youth.
- 8. To further enhance economic growth on the African continent, the Group encourages UNIDO to align with the core objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). In this regard, emphasis should be placed on building systemic resilience through local manufacturing, energy efficiency through sustainable alternatives, green technology, harmonization of standards, and building local and human capacity to respond to both internal and external shocks.
- 9. Taking into account the approaching conclusion of the designated term of IDDA III, the Group underscores the importance of the full implementation of the IDDA III Joint Roadmap and remains hopeful that the IDDA III Secretariat will play a more coordinated role in implementing the Joint Roadmap.
- 10. The Group also encourages UNIDO to continue collaborating with Member States, strategic development partners, other United Nations and inter-governmental agencies, as well as development finance institutions to support the implementation of objectives of the IDDA III. Maintaining synergies between UNIDO and the African Union will contribute towards building technical competencies and policy knowledge for the development and implementation of regional and continental industrial initiatives.
- 11. To conclude, the Group of 77 and China appreciates UNIDO's continued contributions to Africa's socio-economic development through the vehicle of the IDDA III.

Thank you, Mr. President

## G-77 and China statement during the UNIDO Industrial Development Board,51<sup>st</sup> session, 3-6 July 2023, delivered by H.E. Ms. Mary Wangui Mugwanja, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya

#### Agenda item 10: Climate neutral industry and circular economy

Mr. President,

- 1. The Group reaffirms the high importance of the potential benefits for countries to transform their economies to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, by engaging with partners to integrate circular economy, bioeconomy and Industry 4.0 for more sustainable industrial activity and manufacturing systems, according to national plans and priorities.
- 2. The Group recognizes that a circular economy offers a promising and essential approach towards some of the most pressing global challenges and can accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5, while advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- 3. The Group notes with satisfaction the efforts made by Member States to initiate or adopt policies, regulatory and legal frameworks incorporating elements of a circular economy, including national, subnational and regional strategies, roadmaps and actions plans on circular economy, as well as resource efficiency, product, chemical and waste management targets, laws and regulations.
- 4. The Group expresses its appreciation to UNIDO for holding the first round of global consultations on Circular Economy in May 2021 and the preparations towards holding of the second round of global consultations on Circular Economy in 2023. The Group is hopeful that the second round of global consultations on Circular Economy will afford experts from Member States and other relevant stakeholders opportunity to exchange views on best practices, emerging innovations and the promotion and adoption of circular economy principles and practices by industries of Member States.

#### Mr. President,

- 5. The Group of 77 and China further takes note of the Director General's report on UNIDO's strategy in response to climate change and expresses its appreciation to the Secretariat for drafting the strategy, in line with the General Conference resolution GC.19/Res.2 and the IDB Decision IDB.20/Dec5.
- 6. The Group commends H.E. Mr Mohamed Elmolla, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Egypt, for his efforts in facilitating the negotiations on UNIDO's Strategy in response to Climate Change and hopes that this Strategy brings about the desired outcomes.
- 7. The Group welcomes the new version of the draft strategy and supports its adoption during this session and requests the Director General to continue working with Member States

in developing the action plan of this strategy, to be considered during the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNIDO.

- 8. The Group supports the position that the strategy be guided by the low-greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development principle, and enhances the efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of UNIDO's activities in the support of Member States climate priorities related to Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID).
- 9. In this regard, the Group stresses the importance of the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund during COP27, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022 and emphasizes the importance of expediting the early operationalization of funding arrangements for loss and damage, which is planned to be announced during COP28, to be held in the United Arab Emirates.
- 10. Finally, the Group acknowledges the important role UNIDO shall play in coordinating and leveraging climate finance opportunities, including through funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage, to enable a paradigm shift towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development particularly in developing countries.

Thank you, Mr. President.

## G-77 and China statement during the UNIDO Industrial Development Board, 51<sup>st</sup> session, 3-6 July 2023, delivered by Mr. Gustav Kwaku Sefe Dovlo, Minister Counselor of Ghana

#### Agenda item 11: Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Middle-Income Countries

Mr President,

- 1. The Group recognizes that Middle-Income Countries (MICs) consist of a wide range of diverse countries, which have contributed to international economic stability, while still facing specific challenges and needs in the context of sustainable development, respectively, in the economic, social and environmental areas.
- 2. The Group underscores that a robust, green and digital industrial transformation of economies of MICs will contribute to sustainable development and is necessary for achieving internationally agreed development goals, particularly poverty eradication. In that context, the Group requests UNIDO to increase its efforts in supporting middle-income countries in adopting sustainable industrial development policies and practices, in order to mitigate the environmental impact and promote a quantitative leap with regard to value addition to products and companies.
- 3. The Group welcomes the gradual adjustment of the UNIDO strategic approach for MICs to the emerging priorities of the Organization to ensure consistency and coherence with UNIDO's new vision of progress by innovation. In this regard, the Group takes note of the updated workplan for the implementation of the strategic framework submitted to this session in conference room paper IDB.51/CRP.4.
- 4. The Group further notes, with appreciation, emerging initiatives by UNIDO, including holding of the inaugural Multilateral Industrial Policy Forum (MIPF) in 2023, establishment of Global Industrial Policy Advice Facility in 2021, and development of the Global Programme for Hydrogen in Industry among other development cooperation initiatives.
- 5. The Group acknowledges the work carried out so far by UNIDO in support of MICs and requests the Director General to explore further initiatives towards strengthening its engagement with MICs to support their economic growth and competitiveness. UNIDO is further encouraged to assist stakeholders in understanding and assessing the financial needs of MICs and help the latter comprehend how these financial resources can be mobilized, improving their integration into global economy.

Thank you, Mr. President.



## STATEMENT OF G77 AND CHINA DURING THE 10<sup>TH</sup> MINISTERIAL MEETING ON LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS), SCHEDULED FOR 24 – 25 NOVEMBER 2023, IN VIENNA DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AFTAB A. KHOKHER, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN

Chairperson,
Honourable Ministers,
Director General of UNIDO,
Excellencies, distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

- 1. It is a great honour and privilege to address the 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on behalf of G-77 and China in Vienna.
- 2. As a Group of developing countries, the G-77 and China cannot overstate the significance of addressing the developmental challenges faced by the Least Developed Countries. It is unfortunate that LDC countries continue to grapple with multifaceted and severe structural impediments to sustainable development. From economic disparities to environmental vulnerabilities, the journey toward economic progress for LDCs is fraught with hurdles that demand collective attention and concerted efforts from the global community.

Mr. Chair

- 3. The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031 stands as a beacon of hope and commitment. Its adoption at the LDC5 conference in March 2022 and subsequent endorsement by the General Assembly in April 2022 represent a pivotal moment in our collective resolve to uplift vulnerable nations. It is imperative that we seize this momentum to implement the plans and partnerships outlined in the DPoA over the coming decade.
- 4. The Group urges UNIDO to continue building new partnerships to help LDCs overcome structural challenges, eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the agreed targets under the Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) for LDCs 2022-2031, which will play a crucial role in facilitating sustainable and irreversible graduation from the LDC category.
- 5. Recognizing the importance of regional collaboration, the Group advocates for strengthened regional associations. By fostering unity and leveraging shared resources, regional cooperation becomes a catalyst for inclusive development, empowering nations to collectively overcome challenges and capitalize on opportunities.

- 6. The Group commends UNIDO's support for industrialisation efforts of LDCs and notes with appreciation that UNIDO's Operational Strategy for the years 2022-2031, which will be considered during our meeting, aligns seamlessly with the six focus areas in the DPoA.
- 7. The Group supports UNIDO in developing the implementation plan, in consultation with Member States, to expedite the execution of the Operational Strategy for the years 2022-2031 in synergy with UNIDO'S strategy for Africa 2023-2025 to foster global solidarity and international cooperation.
- 8. The Group views UNIDO's technical cooperation as fundamental for the realization of inclusive and sustainable industrial development of LDCs. By designing tailored programmes, UNIDO plays a pivotal role in developing capacities and facilitating technology transfer, which are crucial for achieving self-sufficiency and resilience in these countries.
- 9. The Group appreciates UNIDO's effective deployment of South-South and triangular industrial cooperation (SSTIC) as a pivotal modality for fostering technical cooperation among developing nations further solidifying its role as a catalyst for sustainable industrial development.
- 10. The Group commends these efforts and urges UNIDO to seek additional ways to uplift UNIDO's technical cooperation endeavours in the LDC countries.
- 11. The Group appreciates the call by the Director General of UNIDO for a new deal for LDCs based on debt relief, easy and fair access to financial markets; investments in infrastructure development for agriculture, sustainable energy and climate protection and enhanced access to climate finance.
- 12. The Group commends UNIDO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the launch of the Agrifood System Transformation Accelerator, a global programme assisting in agrifood system transformation in 15 countries across the world.
- 13. The Group reaffirms UNIDO's pivotal role in accelerating the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and underscores our commitment to the principle of leaving no one behind in our collective journey towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
- 14. In conclusion, let us approach the challenges ahead with renewed determination, recognizing that our collective actions today will not only shape the future of LDCs but will also have a positive impact on all countries, irrespective of their current economic status. The Group stands ready to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to turn commitments into concrete results.

Thank you.



#### Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNIDO General Conference, 27 November – 1 December 2023, delivered by H.E. Mr. Aftab A. Khokher, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan

[Mme. President, H.E. Ambassador Debora Lepre, Permanent Representative of Italy.]

- 1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I congratulate you on your election as the President of the 20th Session of the General Conference of UNIDO. I also congratulate all the other members of the bureau on their election. The Group is confident of a successful outcome of this session under your able guidance and leadership and would like to assure you of its full support.
- 2. The Group takes this opportunity to thank the outgoing President of the 19th Session of the General Conference, H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Mezghani, former Permanent Representative of Tunisia, and members of his bureau for their outstanding work during the previous session.
- 3. The Group also wishes to thank the Director General for his opening remarks and to convey its appreciation to the Secretariat for its hard work in organizing this General Conference.
- 4. At present, global economic recovery continues to encounter more difficulties and the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is faced with multiple, increasing and interlinked challenges around the world. In this regard, the Group recognizes the unique role UNIDO plays in facilitating inclusive and sustainable industrial development within the United Nations system and reaffirms the importance of UNIDO's contributions towards accelerating the achievement of SDG 9 especially within developing countries.
- 5. The Group requests UNIDO to continue its activities in this regard through innovative and transformative policies that build resilient infrastructure, facilitate job creation, reduce poverty, stimulate economic growth, promote digitization and create decent jobs in developing countries, especially for women, youth and other persons in vulnerable situations in accordance with national policies and regulations.
- 6. The Group urges UNIDO to continue enhancing cooperation and mobilizing all necessary resources to facilitate capacity building, technical assistance, transfer of technology and the provision of financial resources that would contribute and complement national efforts of the developing countries towards industrialization and to better enable them to take advantage of new and emerging technologies. In this regard, the Group encourages UNIDO to mobilize resources and explore all possible avenues particularly in the context of South-South cooperation by facilitating access to and making good use of financial support for global development.
- 7. The Group has followed, with keen interest, the continued implementation of Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CPs) and acknowledges the relevance of

utilizing these programmes to further enhancing inclusive and sustainable industrial development [ISID] in developing countries. The Group urges UNIDO to continue expanding both PCPs and CPs to other members of the Group, upon their request.

- 8. The Group supports the Director General's organizational reforms and calls on UNIDO to continuously optimize internal and human resources management, further enhance accountability and transparency, ensuring the Organization functions as efficiently and effectively as possible, working towards full implementation of the Organization's mandate.
- 9. The Group expresses serious concern with the implementation of the principle of equitable geographical representation and low level of representation of professional staff from developing countries in UNIDO particularly at the senior management level. The Group calls upon the Director General to address this concern and requests the Secretariat to report to the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of the Industrial Development Board on the implementation of this principle, the achievements made so far and the proposals to improve the current representation of Member States in UNIDO.
- 10. The Group takes note of the programme and budgets proposals for the biennium 2024-2025, in line with the principles of results-based budgeting. The Group expresses its appreciation for the amendments made to the initial programme and budgets proposals to consider the circumstances of Member States while maintaining the quality of services provided, especially in the field of technical cooperation.
- 11. The Group takes note of the 17 percent increase in the implementation of technical projects in 2022, and welcomes the commitment of the Director General to increase the technical cooperation to up to 25 percent for the biennium 2024 2025. In this regard, the Group calls upon UNIDO to strengthen its technical cooperation regarding promoting industrial parks, developing industrial policies, developing MSMEs and reduction of unemployment, promoting industrial decarbonization, green hydrogen and other renewable sources of energy circular economy, digitalization and innovation. The Group further requests UNIDO to enhance relations with key development partners to foster innovation through the provision of technology transfer, capacity building and technical cooperation to complement domestic industrial priorities together with sustainable financing.
- 12. The Group encourages all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time in order to maintain a healthy and stable financial outlook for the Organization. Predictable, sufficient, and assured funding remains vital for UNIDO to effectively deliver its core mandate of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Member States, particularly developing countries. In this regard, the Group also recognizes difficulties some Member States experience for reasons beyond their control in paying their full contributions on time. The Group further requests the Director General to continue holding discussions with all former Member States to encourage them to rejoin the Organization.
- 13. The Group also encourages UNIDO to consider different project support costs between Member States and non-Member States and further urges UNIDO to undertake necessary measures to attain full cost recovery, taking into account the budgetary situation of the Organization, to strengthen UNIDO's financial situation.

- 14. The Group recognizes the crucial role that UNIDO field offices play in the effective delivery of the Organization's mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID), including technical cooperation and capacity-building, to Member States, especially developing countries, and in this regard, requests the Secretariat to maintain constant coordination with Member States to keep the latter updated on the progress of this reform initiative.
- 15. The Group takes note of the Report of the Director General on the Reform of the UNIDO Field Network, which is aimed at making the field offices more relevant and accessible to Member States, and welcomes the regional briefings conducted by the Secretariat in August of this year, which provided an opportunity for Member States to familiarize themselves with and contribute to this important undertaking. In this regard, the Group calls upon the Director General to adequately equip field offices with necessary human and material resources, to ensure that the restructured UNIDO Field Network will continue to respond to the needs of Member States, upon their request and as appropriate.
- 16. Digital technologies and the Artificial Intelligence are becoming ubiquitous and can enable rapid transformations and accelerate progress in achievement of SDGs. The Group welcomes organization of the regional workshops on digital transformation by UNIDO. The Group is also appreciative of organization of the Development Dialogue on the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Digital Compact in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Technology in January this year. The discussions held in various Development Dialogues have underscored the importance of digitalization for the productive transformation of economies, as well as the emerging opportunities and challenges. The Group has taken note of the draft Operational Strategy for Digital Transformation presented in the CRP. The Group believes that UNIDO has a significant role to play in further adoption of digital technologies, innovation and AI, especially by the industries in the developing countries including MSMEs and other business units in the informal economy sector. The Group has taken note of Director General's report on the UNIDO activities in these areas. The Group urges UNIDO to give special emphasis and adopt innovative approaches for capacity building, upskilling and training programmes in the developing countries.
- 17. We recognize that digital and green transition represents two major trends in global economic and social transformation and important drivers of economic growth, with their coordinated development contributing to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. We support the efforts of UNIDO to help businesses including MSMEs in Member States to actively participate in the digital and smart upgrading of traditional industry, and play an important role in policy advice and training and the transfer of technologies to help foster a favorable environment and empower persons in vulnerable situations.
- 18. The Group welcomes the endorsement of UNIDO's strategy in response to climate change during the 51st session of the Industrial Development Board and requests the Director General to continue working with Member States in developing the action plan of this strategy at the earliest. The Group supports that the strategy and its action plan shall be guided by the low-greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development principle, and enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and coordination of UNIDO's activities in support of Member States climate priorities related to the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development.

- 19. The Group supports the strategy's aims of enhancing UNIDO's role in arranging an adequate, sustainable and predictable financing and transfer of clean and innovative technologies to the developing countries, providing a platform for investment mobilization and climate partnerships and fostering South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation to enable the transfer, early adoption and implementation of climate related technologies and innovations, according to their national policies and priorities.
- 20. The Group would like to seize this opportunity to stress the importance of the Loss and Damage Fund established during COP27, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022 and emphasizes the importance of finalizing the funding arrangements ahead of COP28, to be held in the United Arab Emirates. In this regard, the Group calls for the Fund's early capitalization and operationalization.
- 21. The Group reaffirms the high importance of the benefits for countries to integrate circular economy in their industrial policies, according to national plans and priorities. The Group recognizes that a circular economy offers a promising and essential approach towards some of the most pressing global challenges. The Group notes with satisfaction the efforts made by Member States to initiate or adopt policies, regulatory and legal frameworks and action plans to incorporate circular economy principles and practices while implementing their Industrial development strategies.
- 22. The Group welcomes the activities undertaken by UNIDO to promote circular economy and to assist Member States, upon their request, in developing and implementing their strategies in this regard and requests UNIDO to increase these activities. In addition, the Group calls upon UNIDO to continue facilitating exchanges of circular economy best practices and further enhance resource mobilization efforts to support developing countries in integrating circular economy in their industrial development strategies.
- 23. The Group highlights the role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development to overcome poverty and advance from extractive economies to knowledge-intensive, more productive, and sustainable economies. This vision of industrial development includes the closing of technological gaps, the promotion of effective and efficient supply chains for regional and global integration, and the strengthening of capacity building and sustainable jobs.
- 24. The Group recalls that structural transformation is a central process in economic development. Without an enhancement of the productive capacity and a shift of resources to higher productivity sectors, developing countries will not be able to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, developing countries underscore their urgent need to receive adequate, sustainable and predictable support to build up their digital sectors, in order to diminish the technological gap, and hence reducing inequality between countries.
- 25. The Group emphasizes the importance of gender balance and gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW) in line with national laws and within the context of ISID, and in this regards welcomes UNIDO's programmes and activities undertaken in the developing countries. The Group encourages the Director General to allocate sufficient resources to ensure the achievement of the GEEW-related results and targets.

- 26. The Group calls upon the DG to continue working on the draft "UNIDO operational strategy for gender equality and the empowerment of women 2024-2027" and requests full consultations taking into account the views of Member States and to submit the draft strategy for the consideration of the Industrial Development Board at its 52<sup>nd</sup> session.
- 27. The Group supports UNIDO in developing the implementation plan in consultation with Member States, to expedite the execution of the operation strategy for the Least Developed Countries Strategy 2022-2031 in synergy with the UNIDO Strategy for Africa 2023-2025 and other relevant UNIDO strategic frameworks and policies to foster global solidarity and international cooperation
- 28. The Group expresses its appreciation for the completion of the updated UNIDO workplan for partnering with middle-income countries (MIC) taking into account the inputs received from Member States and requests the Director General to ensure its effective and efficient operationalization, in such a way as to accelerate an Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID) for the MIC, as well as the attainment of SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure.
- 29. The Group echoes the call of the MICs for a more nuanced and multidimensional classification system moving beyond GDP; such holistic system of measurement, would enable them to take effective climate action, share technology and provide access to finance. In this regard, the Group stresses the importance of considering the significant challenges and realities of MICs on how to achieve the SDGs, as mentioned in the specific meeting on "Overcoming middle-income countries challenges in advancing the 2030 Agenda", organized during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), held from 10 to 19 July 2023.
- 30. The Group welcomes the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's offer to host the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the UNIDO General Conference in Riyadh in November 2025. The Group is confident that the Kingdom has the expertise, skills set, resources and infrastructure to host such a conference. We therefore, extend our support to Saudi Arabia's bid and call upon all Member States of UNIDO to accept the same with consensus.
- 31. In conclusion, the G-77 and China is confident that this Conference will provide us with opportunity for constructive discussions that address the main challenges the Organization faces in fostering ISID in Member States specially developing countries.

## INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)



## Statement of the G-77 and China during the March Board of Governors meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) 06-10 March 2023, delivered by H.E. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

#### Agenda item 3: Nuclear and Radiation Safety: Nuclear Safety Review 2023

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group expresses its gratitude to the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Safety Review 2023, as contained in document GOV/2023/2. The Group also thanks the Director General for his introductory statement, as well as Deputy Director General Lydie Evrard for her remarks and for the technical briefing offered to Member States on 20 February 2023.

Mr. Chair,

- 2. The Group is pleased to note the Agency's continued assistance to Member States has led to progress in the area of nuclear safety in 2022. While the Group reaffirms that the responsibility for nuclear safety within a State rests entirely with that Member State we reiterate that the Agency has a central role in coordinating international efforts to strengthen Nuclear Safety globally, by providing assistance through expertise and advice to Member States, upon request and through promoting Nuclear Safety standards globally.
- 3. In accordance with this belief, the Group welcomes the issuance of two General Safety Guides and fifteen Specific Safety Guides, the endorsement of eighteen draft Safety Guides and the approval of eight Safety Guides document preparation profiles for Safety standards in 2022.
- 4. The Group recalls the adoption, in February 2015, of the "Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety", which aims to strengthen nuclear safety worldwide through agreed principles to guide the Contracting Parties, as appropriate, in the implementation of the objective of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) with the focus on preventing accidents with radiological consequences and by mitigating such consequences should they occur. We call on the Agency to continue to assist Member States, upon request, in the implementation of the principles of the Vienna Declaration.
- 5. The Group reiterates the need for the Agency to uphold the principles of equitable geographical representation, workforce diversity and gender mainstreaming in all its activities. In this regard, the Group and emphasizes the importance of the Agency continuing to support the participation of experts from developing countries, with a special focus on gender mainstreaming, particularly in the Safety Standards Committees, the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee, as well as the Interface Group.
- 6. The Group takes note that the report covers trends and priorities for all the nuclear safety related topics. In this regard, the Group would like the Secretariat to clarify their methodology in identifying the trends and determining the priorities in future Nuclear Safety Reviews.

- 8. The Group expresses its appreciation for the issue of guidance on the management of radionuclides in food and drinking water in nonemergency situations, requests the Secretariat to continue work to develop a technical document to set out radionuclide activity concentration values for non-food commodities, in consultation with Member States and relevant international organizations. We also welcome the growing awareness created through Agency webinars.
- 9. The Group recognizes the importance of and appreciates the assistance provided by the Agency to its Member States, upon request, in strengthening their national nuclear safety architecture, for both power and non-power application including regulatory infrastructure for nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and in the field of emergency preparedness and response.
- 10. Recognizing that around thirty Member States, many of which are members of the Group, are at different stages of initiating new nuclear power programmes, we encourage the Agency to increase support to such embarking Member States and recognize the importance of strengthening and expanding nuclear safety standards in this regard.
- 11. The Group emphasizes that capacity-building, including the development of human resources, expert training and the up-scaling of knowledge and capabilities are key to the establishment, as well as to the safety and sustainability of any nuclear program. The Group also notes that Member States continue to request support regarding their knowledge management and national capacity-building programmes. Therefore, it is essential that the IAEA continue to provide such assistance, upon request, on national, regional and international levels, to developing countries in building their expertise in the relevant technical areas.
- 12. The Group highlights the importance of the development of a safety culture. In this regard, we note that an increasing number of Member States are requesting assistance in further developing their leadership and management programmes for safety and continuous improvement process, including safety culture assessments. The Group further notes the Agency's activities aiming to assist Member States in their efforts to develop, foster and sustain safety culture.
- 13. In view of the increasing use of radiation and nuclear material and technologies, in Member States, the Group notes that there is a growing need for assistance in strengthening regulatory oversight, education and training programmes, guidance documents, peer reviews and advisory services from the Agency for the entire life cycle management. The Group encourages the Agency to continue to provide assistance, upon request, to Member States in these important areas and welcomes the regular organization by the Agency of national, regional, and international workshops, webinars and training courses for Member States on all relevant issues.
- 14. The Group appreciates that in 2022 the Agency conducted 58 peer review and advisory services across all aspects of nuclear safety including safety of nuclear installations, research reactors, fuel cycle facilities as well as regulatory effectiveness, infrastructure development programmes, and ageing management, among others. The Group also encourages the Agency to enhance the participation of experts from the developing countries in conducting such peer reviews and advisory services.
- 15. In view also of the increasing interest of Member States in small and medium sized or modular reactors (SMRs) on account of their potential contribution, in the fight against climate change, for States which choose to have a nuclear power programme and bearing in mind the

need to decrease greenhouse gas emissions, the Group notes the development of a new interregional TC project that aims to support Member States build their capacity on SMRs and calls on the Agency to continue supporting interested countries in the development and deployment of this emerging nuclear power technology. In this regard, the Group welcomes the development by the Agency of the Platform on Small Modular Reactors and their Applications, as well as the launch of the Nuclear Harmonization and Standardization Initiative (NHSI), which reflects Member States' interest in the harmonization of safety requirements and regulatory and licensing approaches as well as in the standardization of industrial approaches for SMRs.

- 16. The Group reiterates its concern, voiced at previous Board of Governors meetings, regarding the reference to applying a holistic approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs. In this regard, the Group looks forward to conducting consultations with the Secretariat on this concept, while taking into consideration their various positions and legal commitments, and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the GC resolutions
- 17. The Group notes the issuance of the Safety and Security Glossary (interim edition), which combines for the first time the Safety and Security activities. The Group understands that the Glossary is an internal document for the benefit of the Secretariat with no legal value, and underlines that such a combination shall be in line with the relevant GC resolutions, which recognise the distinction between Nuclear Safety and Nuclear Security.
- 18. Regarding the Radiation Protection of Patients, Workers and the Public, the Group notes that the Agency will assist Member States in their efforts to apply the principles of justification and optimization in circumstances where actions are being considered to reduce radiation exposure. The Group urges the Agency to continue to assist Member States in providing guidance, as well as in strengthening their processes for communicating of radiation risk to the public in planned and existing exposure situations and during an emergency.

#### Mr. Chair,

- 19. The Group notes that Member States show increasing interest in the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network and IAEA CONNECT platforms, which allow for the exchange of information and various materials and publications among Member States. The Group reiterates that knowledge networks should always remain a core component of the nuclear safety capacity-building initiatives with the support of the Agency. The Group appreciates the Agency's continued support to regional networks, which include the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators, the Asian Nuclear Safety Network, the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa, and the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies, as well as to thematic networks such as the Small Modular Reactor Regulator's Forum.
- 20. The Group is of the view that strengthening global nuclear safety depends on the full cooperation among Member States and relevant stakeholders. Vendors of nuclear technologies also have a responsibility to provide users with access to all information, know-how and tools necessary for safe operation.
- 21. The Group expresses its support for the Agency's work in continuing to build upon the 2011 Action Plan and Member States' experience in its implementation, as well as the IAEA Report on the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident, and the principles in the Vienna Declaration and take them into consideration for defining its programme of work in close

consultations with Member States. The Group requests the Secretariat to report periodically to the Board of Governors, in accordance with section 1 of Resolution GC(66)/RES/6.

- 22. The Group notes that the number of published Emergency Preparedness and Response Information Management System (EPRIMS) self-assessment modules increased in 2022 and that the regular analysis of the new information uploaded on EPRIMS allowed the Agency to review the progress made in technical cooperation projects and to identify global trends in national EPR arrangements based on Agency safety standards. Despite the meaningful work done by the Agency in the field of emergency preparedness and response, the Group notes that more work needs to be done. It, therefore, encourages continued cooperation and coordination between the Secretariat and interested Member States, in this regard.
- 23. The Group attaches high importance to transport safety and appreciates the involvement of the Secretariat in international efforts to discuss issues related to the transport of radioactive material. The Group supports continued efforts by the Agency to address problems related to denials of and delays in the shipment of radioactive material, particularly shipment by air and urges Member States to facilitate the transport of radioactive material, and to identify, if they have not done so, a national focal point on denials on shipment of radioactive materials to achieve a satisfactory and timely resolution of this issue. In this regard, the Group welcomes the establishment of a Working Group on "Denials of Shipment Issues and Solutions" in 2022.
- 24. The Group welcomes the growth in the number of Contracting Parties to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Joint Convention). In this regard, the Group welcomes the hosting in Vienna of the postponed 7th Review Meeting of the Joint Convention in 2022. The Group also encourages the Agency to continue preparations for the Joint 8th and 9th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety later this month, with the active participation of Contracting Parties.

Mr. Chair,

25. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Nuclear Safety Review 2023, as contained in document GOV/2023/2.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Nuclear Security: Nuclear Security Review 2023**

Mr. Chair,

- 1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to thank the Director General for his introductory statement and the Secretariat for preparing the draft of the Nuclear Security Review 2023 as contained in document GOV/2023/4 and for the informal briefing provided on 20 February 2023.
- 2. The Group notes that the second edition of the Nuclear Security Review reflects the global trends in 2022 and presents planned Agency activities for 2023 and priorities, as identified by the Agency and Member States, including through the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025, for strengthening nuclear security.
- 3. In this regard, the Group would like to reiterates the following principled positions.
  - Firstly, the Group emphasizes that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State and that the Agency provides support to Member States in strengthening their national Nuclear Security capacity, upon their request.
  - Secondly, while the Group recognizes the central role of the Agency in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally and in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear security, it emphasizes that priorities of the Agency and scope of its activities in this field must be determined by Member States based on their needs and must be guided by the General Conference Resolutions on Nuclear Security. In this connection, the Group recalls and encourages the Secretariat to implement the provisions of paragraph 20 of the 2022 General Conference Resolution GC(66)/RES/7 which requests the Secretariat to assess, in collaboration with Member States, the value and complementarity of the Nuclear Security Review with the Nuclear Security Report, while taking into account available resources, and recommends that the Review be coordinated with the Report and the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025;
  - Thirdly, the Group reiterates that nuclear security considerations should not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, the production, transfer and use of nuclear and other radioactive material, the exchange of nuclear material for peaceful purposes and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy; and that it should not undermine the established priorities of the Agency's technical cooperation programme.
- 4. The Group reiterates its concern, voiced at previous Board of Governors meetings, regarding the reference to applying a holistic approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs. In this regard, the Group looks forward to conducting consultations with the Secretariat on this concept, while taking into consideration their various positions and legal commitments, and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the GC resolutions.
- 5. The Group further underscores that language and terminology employed in the Nuclear Security Review must adhere to the consensus achieved in the GC Resolutions and the Ministerial Declarations on Nuclear Security.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

#### Agenda item 5: Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications: Nuclear Technology Review 2023

Mr. Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Technology Review 2023, contained in document GOV/2023/3. The Group also wishes to thank DDG Dr. Najat Mokhtar and DDG Dr. Mikhail Chudakov for introducing this agenda item and for the technical briefing provided to delegations on 20 February 2023.
- 2. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China under this agenda item. The full statement will be available online.
- 3. The Group attaches great importance to the significant contributions that nuclear technologies can make towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and their role in food security and safety; nutrition and human health, including disease prevention and control; animal health and production; environmental protection; water resources management; as well as in other fields related to the use of radioisotopes and radiation. These, among others, are areas where nuclear, nuclear-derived and isotopic techniques, are beneficial in supporting sustainable socio-economic development in many countries, which requires more efforts to tackle common challenges to promote post COVID recovery for achieving stronger, greener and healthier global development.
- 4. The Group reaffirms that the Agency, in accordance with Article II of the Statute, has a leading role to play in the promotion of these techniques among interested Member States, and encourages it to continue to provide its valuable support, including further promoting active roles of developing countries in contributing towards the development of equipment and techniques that can meet the needs of many Member States, while taking into account equitable geographical distribution and gender balance.
- 5. The Group stresses that the work done by the Agency in nuclear power and nuclear applications highlights the need to increase the transfer of nuclear technology and the sharing of nuclear knowledge, expertise and lessons learned to developing countries, including embarking and newcomer countries, to enhance their capabilities and thus contribute to maximize the benefit of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- 6. In terms of Nuclear Power Technology, the group takes note with appreciation of the evolving global trends in this field as highlighted in details in the report, including, inter alia, the development of Small and Medium Sized Modular Reactors, advanced large Water Cooled Reactors, New Generations of Nuclear Power Plants, as well as various research reactors, other aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle, and non-electric applications. These developments are yet another important testament to the need to increase the transfer of nuclear technology and the sharing of nuclear knowledge, expertise and lessons learned to developing countries, including embarking and newcomer countries, to enhance their capabilities and thus contribute to maximize the benefit of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Group urges the Agency to continue to provide training and education, and to support national capacity-building efforts and to further support coordinated research activities, in this regard.

- 7. The Group acknowledges the positive contribution of nuclear power in climate change mitigation, energy security and its non-climatic environmental and socio-economic benefits. These are some of the important reasons why many countries, particularly developing countries, intend to introduce nuclear power in the coming decades, or to expand existing programmes. The Group thus urges the Agency to continue to assist interested Member States to analyze energy options and to support their capabilities to introduce nuclear power, while maintaining its leading role in the promotion of the transfer and development of technology and knowledge related to peaceful nuclear applications, including nuclear power and the nuclear fuel cycle.
- 8. The Group appreciates the Agency's participation at the 2022 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) recognizing that the role nuclear technology can play in both effectively mitigating and adapting to the increasingly severe consequences of the climate crisis. The Group encourages the Agency's continued engagement in high-level dialogue on nuclear energy and nuclear techniques and applications at COP28, to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in 2023.
- 9. The Group notes that one Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) mission was hosted in 2022. INIR and related missions provide a useful service in extending cooperation to Member States and the Group encourages the Agency to utilize experts from developing countries in these missions.
- 10. The Group reiterates its interest in the work of various technical working groups under the auspices of the Agency in the development of nuclear technology and in the dissemination of knowledge to Member States, inter alia, through Coordinated Research Projects, Collaborating Centres and regional cooperative agreements and requests the Secretariat to continue its support.

- 11. Accelerators and research reactors continue to play an important role in building strong basic capabilities in the nuclear field, and in supporting related education, training and research activities in Member States. The Group appreciates the support provided by the Secretariat in its coordination of projects supporting research, hands-on training and experimental work in the field of accelerators, and encourages it to continue to provide such support, especially by making use of built-in capacity in many developing countries.
- 12. The Group highlights the importance of research reactors to interested Member States and their utilization for research and various applications, including education, training, research and isotope production, and calls for enhanced international cooperation to maximize their efficient use while noting that the efforts in this direction continue to grow. The Group urges the Agency to assist interested Member States that are building or planning to build new research reactors as they have shown that they remain indispensable for providing radioisotopes for medicine and industry, services for cultural heritage and environmental studies all whilst making a strategic contribution to education and training.
- 13. The Group welcomes the continued international collaboration, supported by the IAEA, to promote and enhance the utilization of research reactors for nuclear capacity building, including education and training, among other areas. The Group encourages the Agency to continue its

work of facilitation of regional networks and coalitions to help fostering international cooperation and enabling research reactors to expand their stakeholder and user communities.

Mr. Chair,

- 14. The Group attaches great value to the role of the Agency's Nuclear Applications laboratories at Seibersdorf, which have assisted Member States in enhancing their access to the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies since 1962. The Group appreciates the support already given by Member States to the ReNuAL and ReNuAL Plus projects, and as the project enters its final phase, ReNuAL 2, the Group calls on all Member States, in a position to do so, to contribute.
- 15. The Group values the Agency's assistance to Member States, especially to developing countries, in the field of medical applications, including through the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) and the Rays of Hope initiative. The Group is appreciative of the Agency's contribution to improving the overall cancer management worldwide, including, the diagnosis, treatment and control of cancer through, inter alia, the development and application of nuclear techniques. The Group notes that these nuclear techniques play an important role in fighting the global cancer epidemic. The Group also takes note of advances in positron emission tomography (PET), targeted radionuclide therapy, isotope-based theranostics and production of medical radioisotopes. The Group welcomes the partnership agreement signing between the Agency and eleven professional societies on cancer and looks forward to establishment of anchor centres to take this initiative forward.
- 16. On Food and Agriculture, the Group notes with interest, developments in the use of radiolabeling approaches to trace and measure antimicrobial substances. The Group takes note of the continuation of the works of the FAO/IAEA Center of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture and the work of the Joint IAEA-FAO Programme in strengthening the capacity of Member States in the detection, characterization, surveillance and control of transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases such as African Swine Fever, Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Ebola, Zika, Avian Influenza, MERS, SARS and COVID-19, through the use of radioisotopes and radiation technology. The Group appreciates the capacity building of some of the designated Zodiac National Laboratories (ZNLs) under the IAEA Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) project. Strengthening of the remaining designated ZNLs in need is essential for the success of the ZODIAC project.

- 17. Recognizing the benefits and opportunities offered by the enhanced use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning and deep learning techniques in nuclear sciences and applications, the Group appreciates that the Agency is seeking to open dialogue and collaboration to promote the application of AI to nuclear science, techniques and technologies and encourages the Agency to promote technology transfer and knowledge sharing in this field, in order to better support its Member States.
- 18. The Group takes note of the progress in environmental Protection programmes, in particular the NUclear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) initiative, launched in 2021, which builds on the Agency's efforts to deal with plastic pollution through recycling using radiation technology and marine monitoring using isotopic tracing techniques.

19. The Group recalls the successful International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, co-chaired by Costa Rica and Japan, in November 2018 and its Ministerial Declaration. The Group looks forward to the commencement of consultations on the follow up International Ministerial Conference in 2023.

20. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Nuclear Technology Review 2023, as contained in document GOV/2023/3.

### **Agenda Item 9- Appointment of the Director General**

Mr. Chairman,

1. The Group of 77 and China takes this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, a national of a Member State of the Group, on his appointment by the Board of Governors as the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for a second term. The Group looks forward to his approval by the General Conference in September this year. The Group commends Mr. Grossi for his valuable work as the head of the Agency, in particular in the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Group looks forward to the enhancement of the Agency's activities in this field, including in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The G-77 and China acknowledges the impartial, effective and professional manner with which Mr. Grossi has discharged his responsibilities as Director General of the IAEA. The Group assures the Director General of its full support and cooperation in discharge of his professional duties during his second term.



# G-77 and China statement during the Informal Meeting of the Programme and Budget Committee, Thursday, 16 March 2023, delivered by H.E. Mr. Azzeddine Farhane, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco

Mr. Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Secretariat for issuing the Agency's Draft Programme and Budget 2024–2025 as contained in GOV/2023/1 and for the presentation provided today.

- 2. The Group has taken note of the budget proposal and is studying it carefully. The Group understands that the proposal is made at a time of not only a continuing challenging economic environment but also one of rising demands on the Agency's services, in particular the TC programme. The Group will engage meaningfully and constructively in the discussions, both in the informal PBC format, as well as in the Working Group format and would like to extend its full support to the Ambassador of Belgium, H.E. Ms Caroline Vermeulen, and the Ambassador of Egypt, H.E. Mr Mohamed Elmolla for their co-chairmanship of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF targets for 2024-2025
- 3. The Group notes that the Draft Programme and Budget for 2024 2025 represents a zero real growth rate with a 2.7% price adjustment. The Group maintains its principled position with regard to the Regular Budget, which calls for a balanced distribution of the budget so as to reflect the equal importance of the three pillars of the Agency, namely (a) the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, including Technical Cooperation, (b) Safety and (c) Safeguards. The Group firmly believes that there should be a balance between promotional and non-promotional activities.
- 4. In relation to the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF), the Group stresses that the TCF targets should be determined in tandem with the changes made in the level of the operational regular budget, including price adjustments. In addition, the TCF targets should also take into account the increase in the number of Member States that draw on the TCF and other relevant factors.
- 5. The Group notes the Indicative Planning Figures (IPF) of €92 600 000 for 2024 and €92 600 000 for 2025 for the TCF as contained in the Draft Programme and Budget. However, the Group stresses that the agreed revised target of €93 686 000 for 2023 should be the base for determining the TCF targets for 2024-2025. The Group remains convinced that in view of the aforementioned factors, the TCF targets for 2024 2025 would require an upward adjustment.

6. The Group further notes the increase in the unfunded component of the proposed budget. The Group supports the Director General's commitment to enlarge the donor base, including by forging new partnerships with non-traditional donors. Further, the Group wishes to reiterate the need to ensure that seeking funds for extra budgetary projects should not adversely impact the Technical Cooperation Programme, especially the financing of footnote/a projects. In this regard, the goal of achieving sufficient, assured and predictable resources for the Technical Cooperation Program remains a priority for the G-77.

### Mr. Chair,

- 7. The Group has taken note of the proposed cost saving and efficiency measures, including those of a cross-cutting nature, which will be implemented throughout the biennium. The Group requests further information on the implementation and possible impact of these measures. It has been the Group's consistent position that such measures should not negatively impact the promotional activities of the Agency. The Group therefore welcomes the decision to limit staff costs to 74% of the operational regular budget and to allocate the resources thus saved to TC activities.
- 8. The Group continues to support the efforts as highlighted in the budget proposal to achieve equitable geographical distribution and gender balance within the Secretariat.
- 9. The Group would like to reiterate its principled position that the Agency's Programme and Budget should represent a balance between promotional and non-promotional activities and to further emphasize the need for sufficient, assured and predictable resources for the TC programme in order to achieve the objectives of the Agency, as laid out in Article II of the Statute.
- 10. Finally, the Group has taken note that the Board of Governors has authorized the DG to accept the amendment to the ICSC Statute, and requests the Secretariat to propose plans to prevent budgetary shortfalls that may occur due to the implementation of the amended ICSC Statute.



### Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the First Meeting of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets for 2024 – 2025 of the IAEA, on 24 March 2023, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Kokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

#### Co-Chairs,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank you Co-Chairs for convening this meeting and congratulates you on the assumption of your duties as Chairpersons of this Working Group. We have full confidence in your wisdom and capability in guiding our work and look forward to engaging in a constructive manner and a spirit of openness in our deliberations in the coming months on the Regular Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund Targets for 2024-2025.
- 2. The Group has listened carefully to the information provided today regarding the breakdown of regular budget expenditures and efficiencies. The Group is still analysing the proposals in detail and will provide its comments in due course. The Group looks forward to further information and breakdown regarding human resources and the implementation of the staff cap across the Major Programmes.
- 3. The Group reiterates its long-held view that the Agency's budget should reflect the balance between the three pillars of the Agency's work, namely the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology including technical cooperation, safety and safeguards. In addition, the Group notes that the funds available in the TCF are exclusively for the approved Technical Cooperation Programme.
- 4. We take note of the proposed cost saving and efficiency measures that reach the figure of € 10.9 million, including € 4.7 million to be allocated to possible increases in energy costs. While taking note of the Secretariat's proposal to ensure prioritization, efficiencies and synergies, in the proposed budget, and while awaiting further clarification on different approaches regarding efficiencies and effectiveness, the Group is of the firm opinion that such efforts should not negatively affect the desired balance between promotional and non-promotional activities.
- 5. The Group further underscores that the promotional activities of the Agency, delivered through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), are its main statutory function and would like to underline that the largely unfunded components of TC projects show that the TCF has not been Sufficient Assured and Predictable (SAP). Therefore, the Group is of the view that there remains a great need for sufficient, assured and predictable resources to fully

implement approved TC projects including footnote a/ projects. For instance, for 2023, footnote a/ projects amounts to almost half of the TCF targets.

- 6. While the Group underlines that the respective IPFs should be taken as the starting point in determining the TCF targets for a biennium, in consistence with the recommendation of the Working Group on Financing the Agency's Activities (WGFAA) as stated in GOV/2014/49, the Group once again recalls that the agreed revised target of € 93 686 000 for 2023 should be the base for determining the TCF targets for 2024-2025 and adjusted upwards accordingly.
- 7. The Group believes that, as acknowledged in paragraph 9 of document GOV/2021/25, the discussions in this Working Group should be guided by the previous relevant decisions of the Board establishing the synchronization of the TCP cycle with the regular Programme and budget cycle. This was meant to provide a framework to consider increases to the resources for the TC Programme, including the TCF target by taking into account the changes in the level of the regular operational budget, the price adjustment in the corresponding years, and all other relevant factors, including the increasing number of TCP recipients, as well as the level of maturity of their respective TC Programmes.

#### Co-Chairs,

- 8. The Group notes that under the 2024-2025 TCP, 148 Member States, including 35 LDCs, will have a national TCP, representing an increase of 5 Member States compared to the previous biennium. The Group believes that more effort should be made to provide sufficient resources, including staff, for the management of the TCP, if its priority areas are to be achieved, such as ensuring adequate support to the growing number of Member States participating in the TCP and to the extended demand of Member States for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for their sustainable development, as well as ensuring the capability to adequately respond to Member States' requests for support through the TCP.
- 9. The Group also stresses the need for the Secretariat to place appropriate emphasis, upon request and in accordance with national priorities, on activities directly related to the implementation of the SDGs during the preparation of the Programme and budget proposal for 2024-2025, to help developing countries, including the Least Developed Countries to achieve their developmental Objectives.
- 10. The Group takes note of recent efforts of the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), and also the initiative Rays of Hope, to assist Member States to build and expand their cancer care capacity; as well as the current focus on supporting Member States in building their capacity in relation to the early detection and control of zoonotic diseases. The Group reiterates that PACT, Rays of Hope, ZODIAC, nuclear power applications and other areas such as Food and Agriculture, Health and Nutrition, Industrial Applications/Radiation Technology and Water and Environment should continue to receive the same appropriate focus in accordance with the needs and priorities of Member States.
- 11. The Group highlights the need for continued support for the application of the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) to mosquito control, in line with General Conference Resolutions on the

development of the SIT for the control or eradication of malaria-, dengue-, zika and other disease-transmitting mosquitoes. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue to mobilize resources for the SIT in order to assure its adequate implementation. The Group further welcomes the outreach to promote the contribution of nuclear sciences and applications to socio-economic development.

- 12. The Group supports the ReNuAL 2 project as a key priority that contributes to the statutory function of the Agency, in seeking to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. Accordingly, the Group strongly believes that the ReNuAL 2 should receive an appropriate portion of the Capital Regular Budget for 2024 and 2025.
- 13. As regards Nuclear Power, Fuel Cycle and Nuclear Science, the Group welcomes the Agency's intention to continue to support interested Member States to assess their future energy demands and to evaluate and understand the potential for nuclear power to be part of their energy mix and strategies, including in the context of achieving the SDGs and to continue its support for Member States considering embarking on, or extending, Nuclear Power Programmes.
- 14. With regards to Programme 3.5, while the Group reiterates that it is financed by extrabudgetary resources, the Group requests to be kept abreast of any regularization of staff and other administrative costs in the Division of Nuclear Security.
- 15. While the Group appreciates the importance of verification as a statutory function of the Agency, it notes that resources allocated to Nuclear Verification activities continue to represent by far the largest share of the Regular Budget.
- 16. The Group notes that the savings and efficiencies identified in the draft Budget and would like to underline that it should not negatively impact the Technical Cooperation Programme and its delivery, including the valuable participation of experts from developing countries in the Agency's activities.
- 17. On that matter, the Group has taken note that the Board of Governors has authorized the DG to accept the amendment to the ICSC Statute and requests the Secretariat to propose plans to prevent budgetary shortfalls that may occur due to the implementation of the amended ICSC Statute.
- 18. The Group understands that the Working Group has started its work later than usual and therefore expresses its readiness to engage in intensive negotiations with an aim to reach a conclusive outcome as early as possible.
- 19. The Group is confident that this Working Group will allow for a meaningful dialogue with substantive outcomes for the Board's action.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.



### Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the Second Meeting of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets for 2024-2025 on 30 March 2023, delivered by

### H. E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

Co-Chairs,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Co-Chairs for convening this meeting and the Secretariat for providing more information since last meeting.
- 2. The Group stands by its earlier statements as delivered at the informal PBC and the First meeting of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets and while being mindful of the Secretariat's presentations, the Group has the following remarks to make.
- 3. The Group notes that the price adjustments applied to the years 2024-2025 are 2.7% and 2.1% respectively. In this regard, the Group reiterates that the proposed price adjustment needs to be determined while taking into account the existing economic reality.
- 4. The Group notes that the Secretariat's proposed measures aimed at cross-cutting savings, efficiencies and synergies, would keep the current overall share of the human resources cost at 74%, and expects that this will be the benchmark cap for succeeding biennia. The Group emphasizes that any savings and efficiencies suggested by the Secretariat on human resources and cost reductions should neither negatively affect the TCP and its delivery, nor impair the desired balance between promotional and non-promotional activities.
- 5. The Group thus requests the Secretariat to provide additional detailed information on these savings and efficiencies, including on how increases in the base salary scale and post adjustments are absorbed, taking into account the proposed breakdown of the major items of expenditure as highlighted in paragraph 32 in the draft programme and budget, as well as the established cap on human resources.
- 6. The Group understands that this meeting is meant to discuss programme and budget-related issues. Nevertheless, the Group would like to reiterate its position that while the respective IPFs should be taken as the starting point in determining the TCF targets for a biennium, in consistence with the recommendation of the Working Group on Financing the Agency's Activities (WGFAA) as stated in GOV/2014/49, the agreed revised target of € 93 686 000 for 2023 should be the base for determining the TCF targets for 2024-2025 and adjusted upwards accordingly.

Thank you, Co-chairs.



# Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the Third Meeting of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets for 2024-2025 of the IAEA, on 11 April 2023, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

### Co-Chairs,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Co-Chairs for convening this meeting.
- 2. While engaging in discussions in this Working Group, the positions of the G-77 and China will continue to reflect adherence to the Group's principles as well as considerations, which have been clearly enunciated in its previous statements, including the Group's statement from the last TACC in November 2022. However, at this stage, the Group would like to focus on the following areas.

#### Co-Chairs,

- 3. The Group appreciates the contribution that the Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) makes towards the achievement of the SDGs. It is a matter of concern for the Group that the pursuit of SDGs has been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change. The Group believes that this adds more urgency to the objective of making resources for the TCP sufficient, assured and predictable, which shall then remain the overriding priority for the Group during the finalization of the Program and Budget 2024-25.
- 4. The Group further underscores that the promotional activities of the Agency, delivered through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), are its main statutory function and would like to underline that the largely unfunded components of TC Programme show that the TCF has not been sufficient, assured and predictable. In this regard, the Group is of the view that a decision on the TCF Targets for 2024-2025 and the corresponding IPFs should consider the following:
  - The revised TCF Target for 2023 should be taken as the starting point for the TCF Target of 2024-2025:
  - The increasing number of Member States, including LDCs, benefitting from TC activities, as well as four new Member States with national TCPs in comparison to only one Member State in the current biennium;
  - The expressive number of Member States which will require full support under the 2024-2025 TCP;
  - That the TCF targets should grow in tandem with increases in the regular budget, including the price adjustment;
  - The need for the Agency to place the appropriate emphasis on its activities directly related to the attainment of the SDGs in Member States;
  - The large unfunded components of TC Programme in Member States, also termed as footnote <u>a</u>/ projects;
  - That the IPFs for 2026-2027 should be based on the agreed TCF targets of 2024-2025, and
  - Other relevant factors

5. Group	The aforementioned approach will be consistent with the recommendations of the Working on Financing the Agency's Activities (WGFAA) as stated in GOV/2014/49.
Thank	you, Co-chairs.



# Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets for 2024-2025 of the IAEA, on 18 April 2023, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

#### Co-Chairs,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Co-Chairs for convening this meeting.
- 2. While engaging in discussions in this Working Group, the G-77 and China would reiterate its consistent position with respect to TCF Targets as enunciated in our previous statements, including the Group's statement from the last TACC meeting in November 2022. However, at this stage, the Group would like to focus on three points.
- 3. First, the Group cannot support any proposal that would factor in the interest income in deciding the TCF Targets for 2024-2025, taking into consideration that factoring in the interest income for the TCF Targets was a one-time measure taken on an exceptional basis, as highlighted in the Chair's proposal for the revised budget for 2023 (GOV/2022/74).
- 4. Secondly, the Group reiterates its position that the TCF Targets should grow in tandem with increases in the regular budget, including the price adjustment.
- 5. Thirdly, the Group recalls its position that the revised TCF Target for 2023 should be taken as the starting point for the TCF Targets for 2024-2025 and, subsequently, on the respective IPFs.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.



## Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the Programme and Budget Committee, 2-4 May 2023, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

### Agenda Item 2: Agency's Financial Statements for 2022, including the Report of the External Auditor

- 1. The Group of 77 and China thanks the Deputy Director General for her introductory statement and the Secretariat for the presentations delivered during the informal Workshop on Financial and Administrative matters on 21 April 2023.
- 2. With regard to the Financial Statements of the Agency for 2022 including the External Auditor's report. The Group would like to make the following comments:
- 3. The Group would like to express its appreciation to the Supreme Audit Institution of India for the professionalism in conducting the audit on the Agency's activities and whose independent auditing work will assist the efforts of the Agency towards efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery.
- 4. The Group is pleased to note that "an unqualified opinion" has once again been placed on the Agency's financial statements. The External Auditor has made several observations and recommendations for the improvement of the Agency's financial practices. The Group supports the implementation of relevant recommendations aimed at improving management and enhancing efficiency.
- 5. While appreciating the extrabudgetary contributions that were made by Member States in a position to do so, the Group would like to caution against the over reliance on extrabudgetary funds, as this could negatively impact the effectiveness and independence, as well as long term sustainability of the Agency's activities.
- 6. The Group calls on all Member States to pay their contributions to the Regular Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund, on time and in full.
- 7. The Group also takes this opportunity to underscore the fact that TC activities continue to lack sufficient, assured and predictable resources and requests the Secretariat to address this issue.
- 8. The Group notes that the net assets of the TCF and the TC Extrabudgetary Fund increased by €3.6 million and €17.9 million, respectively. While this reflects the overall health of the funds, the Group maintains its view that the said increase should not be interpreted that the TCF resources exceed what can be implemented. The Group would like to clarify that this is also due to the nature of TCF activities that are implemented over a longer time horizon than one financial year. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue to explain this fact in all future financial statements of the Agency.
- 9. The Group notes with concern the overall increase in the Agency's liabilities and in particular the €40.5 million increase concerning After Service Health Insurance. The Group encourages the Secretariat to continue addressing the significant growing liabilities, and to

consult regularly with and report to Member States about the relevant measures to be taken in that regard. The Group reiterates its request that budget information regarding staff costs, as well as regarding all the relevant expenditure items, should be presented in such a way as to permit meaningful comparison of the budget proposals on a year-on-year basis.

Finally, Mr. Chair,

- 10. The Group encourages the Secretariat to implement the External Auditor's recommendations in a transparent manner and where feasible, to consult with Member States.
- 11. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Agency's Financial Statements for 2022, as contained in document GOV/2023/17, and documents GOV/INF/2023/4 and GOV/INF/2023/6.

## Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the Programme and Budget Committee, 2-4 May 2023, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

### Agenda Item 3: The 2022 Internal Audit, Management Services and Investigations Report and the 2022 Programme Evaluation Report

Mr. Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China thanks the Secretariat and the Director of Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for the 2022 Internal Audit, Management Services and Investigations Report and the 2022 Programme Evaluation Report.
- 2. The Group expresses its appreciation for the work conducted by the OIOS to ensure management efficiency and programme effectiveness and to enhance accountability. The Group recognizes that the organizational independence of the OIOS is fundamental to fulfill the responsibilities of the internal audit activities and the OIOS must confirm it to the Board of Governors at least annually.
- 3. The Group is of the view that the audit and evaluation activities carried out by the OIOS should cover all Major Programmes equally.
- 4. On the Country-Level Evaluations and Audits (CLEAs), the Group recalls that CLEAs were carried out in Bangladesh, Kuwait, Mongolia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, and reported on during the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee (TACC) in November 2022. The Group notes the findings, recommendations and cross-cutting conclusions that aim to facilitate long-term capacity-building and sustainability planning.

Mr. Chair,

- 5. While noting that all recommendations have been accepted by the Secretariat and are being implemented, the Group further requests the Secretariat to implement the earlier outstanding recommendations. The Group notes that according to OIOS Report, the Secretariat put forth a specific action plan in response to the recommendations made on the Evaluation of Agency's Management of the Nuclear Security Programme, and also takes note of the Evaluation of the Incident and Emergency System Training and Exercise Programme and of the Review of the Agency's COVID-19 Emergency Response Assistance Delivered Through Technical Cooperation Project INT0098.
- 7. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the 2022 Internal Audit Activity Report, as contained in document GOV/2023/14, and the 2022 Programme Evaluation Report, contained in document GOV/2023/15.

### Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the Programme and Budget Committee, 2-4 May 2023, delivered by Mr. Amir Saeed, Representative of Pakistan

### Agenda item 5: The Agency's Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2025

- 1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat and the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and TCF Targets for issuing the proposal of the Agency's Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2025, and the Working Paper as contained in 2023/Note 33.
- 2. The Group would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate its principled position with regard to the Regular Budget, which calls for a balanced distribution of the budget so as to reflect the equal importance of the three pillars of the Agency, namely (a) the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, including technical cooperation, (b) safety and (c) safeguards.
- 3. The Group would like to further reiterate its call for the need to balance the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.
- 4. With respect to paragraph 7 of the Working Paper as contained in 2023/Note 33, the Group will continue to support the efforts as highlighted in the budget proposal to achieve equitable geographical distribution and gender balance within the Secretariat.
- 5. Regarding the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) targets, the Group reiterates its consistent view that in determining the TCF targets and Indicative Planning Figures the following factors should be taken into account:
  - The increasing number of Member States which will require full support under the Technical Cooperation Programme;
  - The evolution in the level of the Regular Budget in line with the Board's decision GOV/2014/49 and GC.58/Res.12;
  - The need for the Agency to place the appropriate emphasis on its activities directly related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Member States, based on their national needs and priorities;
  - The large unfunded components of Technical Cooperation projects in Member States, also termed as footnote <u>a</u>/ projects;
  - The price adjustments; and
  - Other relevant factors.
- 6. In view of the above, the Group believes that sustained efforts are required to render the resources for the TCP sufficient, assured and predictable, in order to enable the Agency to effectively deliver on its main statutory function.
- 7. The Group also takes note that the Co-Chairs' proposal presented is consistent with the Price Adjustment Methodology as contained in document GOV/INF/2018/8 in a non-selective manner.
- 8. The Group supports the Co-Chairs' request to the Secretariat to publish a non-paper outlining current and future measures that could help improve predictability, transparency and communication with a view to avoiding budgetary shortfalls, may those be on account of the implementation of ICSC Recommendations and Decisions or due to other unforeseeable significant increases in the cost of the programmatic activities. The Group looks forward to receiving this non-paper at an early date.

9. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes positive note of the draft proposal by the Co-Chairs, as contained in 2023/Note 33 as well as its reflection on the Agency's Programme and Budget 2024-2025 and believes that this is a prudent approach and serves as a good basis for consensus. The Group stands ready to engage constructively in the discussion on the proposal with an aim to reach a consensual outcome at the earliest.

## Additional Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the Programme and Budget Committee, 2-4 May 2023, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

### Agenda item 5: The Agency's Draft Programme and Budget 2024-2025

Mr Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China thank you for the work conducted during this Programme and Budget Committee. The Group also extends its appreciation to the distinguished Ambassadors of Belgium and Egypt for their competent leadership throughout the sessions of the Working Group and we are satisfied with the outcome of these discussions.
- 2. In that regard, the Group is ready to join consensus on the Agency's Programme and Budget 2024-2025 as contained in the document GOV/2023/32.



# G-77 and China Statement during the IAEA June Board of Governors, 5-9 June 2023, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

### Agenda item 2: The Annual Report for 2022

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to thank the Director General for his introductory statement and the Secretariat for preparing the draft of the Annual Report for 2022 as contained in document GOV/2023/13 and for the informal briefing provided on 19 May 2023.

### **Nuclear Technology**

- 2. The Group notes that nuclear power remains an important option not only for countries with existing nuclear programs, but also for developing countries with growing energy needs The Group encourages the Agency to continue providing the necessary support to Member States interested in launching and expanding their nuclear power programmes.
- 3. The Group appreciates the Agency's participation at the 2022 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) in which the Agency organized for the first time a nuclear-themed pavilion at the COP, Atoms for Climate Pavilion. This participation helped raised visibility for the role nuclear technology can play in both effectively mitigating and adapting to the increasingly severe consequences of the climate crisis. The Group encourages the Agency's continued engagement in high-level dialogue on nuclear energy and nuclear techniques and applications at COP28, to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in 2023.
- 4. The Group attaches high importance to the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO), as a relevant forum gathering technology holders and users with the aim of achieving innovations in nuclear reactors and fuel cycles, while reiterating its call for continued support for INPRO from the Regular Budget. The Group also values the support provided to Member States upon their request through the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions.

- 5. The Group welcomes the work of the Agency in the application of nuclear technologies and, specifically, the assistance provided to Member States in this regard. Nuclear technologies and applications make an important contribution to sustainable development and, therefore, the Group welcomes the Agency's continued assistance to Member States, based on their national priorities.
- 6. The Group reiterates that there is a fundamental need to enhance the transfer of nuclear technology to and sharing of nuclear knowledge with developing countries and welcomes that Nuclear knowledge development remained an area of focus in 2022. As preservation of nuclear knowledge continues to be a high priority for many Member States, the Group requests the Secretariat to continue providing assistance to interested Member States in capacity building and

nuclear knowledge management, including through the Knowledge Management Assist Visits (KMAVs) and Regional Nuclear Education Networks in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

7. The Group attaches great value to Small and Medium Sized or Modular Reactors (SMRs), their potential benefit as a source of power generation, especially for Member States with limited electrical grids, their successful use in energy planning and seawater desalination, taking into account their demonstrated overall cost-effectiveness. In this regard, the Group takes note of the progress of work under the Agency-wide Platform on SMRs and their Applications to provide 'one-stop shop' support for Member States and stakeholders including through an SMR Coordination and Resource Portal for Information Exchange, Outreach and Networking.

- 8. The Group welcomes the various activities of the Agency in the field of nuclear data, research reactors and accelerator technologies. The Group reiterates its full support for the activities of the Agency in nuclear science, and urges the Secretariat to enhance its assistance on developing nuclear science application capabilities of Member States as a tool for their technological and economic development.
- 9. The Group highlights the important role of the various applications of nuclear and isotopic techniques in the field of food and agriculture, human health, management of water resources, environment, industry as well as radioisotope and radiation technology. The Group requests the Secretariat to enhance its efforts to strengthen national capabilities of Member States, particularly developing countries, in these areas.
- 10. The Group attaches great value to the role of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf, which have assisted Member States in enhancing their access to the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies since 1962. The ability of the laboratories to provide timely assistance to Member States in the early-detection and diagnosis of COVID19 is a testament to the invaluable work that these laboratories continue to do. The Group appreciates the support already given by Member States to the ReNuAL and ReNuAL+ projects. As the project enters its final phase, ReNuAL 2, the Group appreciates their continued support and calls on other Member States, in a position to do so, to contribute as well.
- 11. The Group continues to support the work of the Agency in the field of Food and Agriculture, specifically in combating multiple outbreaks of transboundary zoonotic and animal diseases, the development of the Sterile Insect Technique, addressing soil erosion and enhancing water resources management. The Group continues to support the Zoonotic Diseases Integrated Action (ZODIAC) and takes note that around 150 Member States have designated ZODIAC National Coordinators and more than 120 ZODIAC National Laboratories in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe. In this regard, the Group encourages the Secretariat to pursue efforts of mobilizing sufficient resources for the implementation of the project.
- 12. The Group welcomes the work undertaken by the Agency in environmental protection, in particular the NUclear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) initiative, launched in 2021, which builds on the Agency's efforts to deal with plastic pollution through recycling using radiation technology and marine monitoring using isotopic tracing techniques. The Group notes with appreciation the regional workshops and trainings organized by the Secretariat

for implementation of this initiative, and further highlights the leading role played by developing countries in the pilot phase of the programme tools.

- 13. In the field of human health, the Group welcomes the various activities of the Agency in the field of nutrition, biodosimetry and advanced radiotherapy technologies. The Group also commends the work of the Agency, especially in the prevention, control and fight against cancer. The Group notes the activities undertaken in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). In this regard, the Group would like to express its support for the Rays of Hope initiative aimed at supporting developing Member States, beginning with those in Africa, in providing their people access to diagnostic and radiotherapy facilities, equipment as well as capacity-building for cancer control.
- 14. The Group recognizes the unique role that the Agency plays in enhancing the capabilities of Member States in using isotope hydrology for assessment and management of their water resources, including characterization of climate change impacts on water availability.
- 15. The Group also wishes to highlight the important role of the Agency in radioisotope production and the development of radiation technologies.

### **Nuclear Safety and Security**

- 16. The Group reiterates its appreciation for the IAEA's continuing efforts to promote nuclear safety worldwide and welcomes the diverse activities undertaken in 2022. The Group reaffirms that the responsibility for nuclear safety within a State rests entirely with that Member State and that the IAEA can provide upon request assistance through expertise and advice to Member States. We reiterate our support for the Agency's central role, in coordinating international efforts to strengthen Nuclear Safety globally, and in promoting Nuclear Safety standards in line with Article III of its Statute. The Group remains of the view that nuclear safety should not hamper the promotion, transfer and utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.
- 17. The Group appreciates the Agency's efforts in conducting capacity building activities across its programme of work for nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and emergency preparedness and response, as well as in strengthening global, regional and national safety networks and forums. The Group also recognizes the Agency's important role in developing Safety Standards and welcomes the issuance of 17 publications in the Safety Guides series in 2022.
- 18. The Group attaches great value to the IAEA's assistance to developing countries embarking on nuclear power programmes and encourages the Agency to continue its support to Member States, upon request, in developing and strengthening their nuclear safety infrastructure. In this context, the Group values the Agency's support, provided to Member States, upon their request, through the peer review and advisory services conducted in 2022 across all safety areas. The Group also encourages the Agency to enhance the participation of experts from the developing countries in conducting such peer reviews and advisory services.
- 19. The Group notes the Agency's continued efforts in 2022 to contribute to global efforts to achieve effective nuclear security. The Group reiterates its view that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State, and that nuclear security should not be a condition or pre-requisite for technical cooperation projects. The Group reiterates its principled

position that nuclear security considerations should not hamper international cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear activities, the production, transfer and use of nuclear and other radioactive material, the exchange of nuclear material for peaceful purposes and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and should not undermine the established priorities of the Agency's technical cooperation programme.

- 20. The Group also expresses its previous concerns regarding the Nuclear Security Review. It further reiterates its concern, voiced at previous Board of Governors meetings, regarding the reference to applying a holistic approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs, as reflected in the Nuclear Security and Nuclear Safety Reviews. In this regard, the Group welcomes the consultations which the Secretariat is conducting in response to the request of Member States on these concepts, taking into consideration their various positions and legal commitments, and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the GC resolutions.
- 21. The Group welcomes the work underway to establish a Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre at its Seibersdorf laboratories through extrabudgetary funds and appreciates contributing Member States. The Group notes that the Centre will complement and fill gaps in training capabilities that do not commonly exist among institutions in States and will further enhance Member States' capacity building, upon request.
- 22. With respect to the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025, the Group wishes to reiterate that given the significance and value of the NSPs, this strategic document must always be the product of a thorough consultation process led by Member States.

### **Technical Cooperation**

- 23. The Group believes that the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries is the main statutory function of the Agency and that the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is the main delivery vehicle for this statutory function.
- 24. Therefore, the Group reiterates its call for strengthening the promotional activities of the IAEA, including Technical Cooperation and Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs), through the provision of sufficient, assured and predictable resources, so as to properly respond to the increasing number of Member States and their growing needs, as well as to enhance the use of nuclear technology for sustainable development.
- 25. The Group further notes the activities undertaken in relation to the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) and appreciates the targeted outreach to traditional and non-traditional donors in mobilizing direct and indirect resources for unfunded cancer-related activities in Member States. Broad access to nuclear medicine, radiation medicine techniques and radiotherapy remains a challenge and the Group urges the IAEA to collaborate with relevant international organizations, in order to continue building capacities in developing countries.
- 26. Cooperation and collaboration with relevant organizations within the UN system remains important in allowing for increased access to nuclear science and technology for Member States, in support of their national and development priorities. In this regard, the Group notes with

appreciation the existing, extended and new Partnership Agreements and Practical Arrangements related to technical cooperation.

27. With these comments, the Group takes note of the Agency's Annual Report for 2022 contained in document GOV/2023/13.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

### Agenda item 3: Strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities Technical Cooperation Report for 2022

Mr. Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation, Mr. Liu, for his introductory remarks and for preparing the Technical Cooperation Report as well as the informal technical briefing provided on 19 May 2023.
- 2. The Group of 77 and China believes that the promotion and transfer of nuclear technology for sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries is the main statutory function of the Agency and that the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is the main delivery vehicle for this statutory function.
- 3. The Group reiterates that the TC Programme is a shared responsibility and that its success depends on the combined efforts of the Department of Technical Cooperation, other relevant departments of the Agency and Member States. These efforts are crucial for the planning and successful implementation of the Programme, which should be tailored to respond to the evolving needs and priorities of individual Member States, in particular the developing countries. Such an approach would also be in accordance with Section 2, Operative Paragraph 4 of resolution GC(66)/RES/8, dealing with assistance to developing and least developed countries. The Group calls on the Secretariat to continue making every effort in addressing the challenges facing LDCs in the peaceful application of nuclear energy through the Technical Cooperation Programme, as set out in GOV/INF/2016/12.

- 4. The Group notes that the IAEA regional programmes are an essential tool to promote Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), foster the exchange of best practices, and promote networks amongst member states. The Group appreciates the Secretariat's support in this regard, and requests that the Secretariat continues its efforts to enhance the effective and efficient management of regional programmes. The Group also supports the Secretariat's efforts to enhance the effectiveness of TC Programme delivery to new Member States, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) through the development of focused capacity building support that are tailored towards individual member states development needs.
- 5. The Group takes note of the continued efforts undertaken by the Secretariat in 2022 with the purpose of enhancing efficiency in the delivery of TC projects, including through linking the content of the Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) to national development plans and the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in accordance with priorities and needs identified by member states.

- 6. The Group would also like to recall the established process of the medium-term national planning mechanisms, such as CPFs regional profiles and strategic frameworks through which the needs of Member States are identified and defined. Any changes to the established TC programmatic approach by the Secretariat should be considered in close consultation with Member States.
- 7. The Group takes note of the continued efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the TC Programme. In this context, the Group reiterates that the present guidelines and criteria as contained in INFCIRC/267 for the screening of TC project proposals, programme implementation and subsequent evaluation are sufficient and effective.

Mr. Chair,

- 8. The Group positively notes that the rate of attainment on payments to the TC Fund (TCF) for 2022, as of 31 December 2022, was 97.5%, which is considered as the second highest rate of attainment over the course of the last 10 years. The Group commends the efforts exerted by the Secretariat in this regard, and emphasizes the importance of the TCF in the successful implementation of the TC Programme and reiterates its call on all Member States to pay their contributions in accordance with the indicative scale of assessment in full and on time. The Group also requests the Secretariat to work closely with Member States to improve the rate of attainment on pledges and payments to the TCF.
- 9. The Group notes with concern that despite the increasing number of developing countries receiving technical cooperation from the Agency, the resources for the TC Programme, both financial and human, have not increased in tandem. This situation becomes all the more striking when comparing the TCF to the funds available for the non-promotional activities. The Group reiterates its request to the Secretariat to include in future reports the details of the increasing number of participants in the TC Programme and increasing demands over the past several years.
- 10. The Group remains concerned that the resources available to the TC Programme are still not sufficient, assured and predictable to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute, as called for by the General Conference repeatedly in its resolutions on Technical Cooperation. The Group also reiterates its call for sufficient human resources and adequate funding to be assigned to Major Programme 6, in order to facilitate the successful delivery of the TC Programme in light of the growing demand.
- 11. The Group further appreciates the extrabudgetary contributions by Member States, the private sector and other non-traditional donors to the TC Programme. In addition, the Group notes the decision of some countries to participate in the government cost-sharing mechanism. The Group underscores, though, that extrabudgetary contributions cannot be a reliable source of funding. The Group, therefore, remains concerned about the increased reliance on extrabudgetary contributions for the delivery of the TC Programme and its potential impact on the funding being sufficient, assured and predictable. Extrabudgetary contributions therefore should not and cannot replace the TC Fund, which is the primary funding mechanism essential to a stable and strategic TC Programme.

- 12. The Group takes note of the important contribution the Agency's TC Programme could make to the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and its SDGs as well as to the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The Group welcomes the Secretariat's efforts to help Member States to benefit from the synergies between the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the TC Programme, while recognizing their specificities. The Group maintains that alignment with the SDGs should not constitute a limitation or condition for TC projects, nor a tool for their reprioritization. The Group also holds the view that the SDGs places a greater demand for additional resources to address the increasing socio-economic challenges and to meet the developmental needs of developing countries.
- 13. In this regard, the Group also reiterates its strong position that TC should not be subject to any form of conditionality, which is inconsistent with the statute of the IAEA and the guiding principles and operating rules as contained in INFCIRC/267 and requests the Secretariat to continue to adhere to them.

Mr. Chair,

- 14. The Group appreciates the continued efforts of the Secretariat to enhance the quality of the TC Programme by providing support to the Member States to ensure that the projects for the next TC cycle are relevant, effective, sustainable, have measurable and attainable objectives, and offer greater opportunities for social and economic benefits and long-term national development impact.
- 15. The Group reiterates its call on the Agency to address long-standing obstacles such as delays and denials of equipment, as well as travel and visa restrictions arbitrarily imposed by a number of Member States, which negatively impact programme delivery and the rate of implementation.

- 16. The Group reiterates that alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDFs) should not be made a requirement for TC projects. However, the Group takes note of the Agency's increasing visibility within the UN system which may allow the Agency to identify linkages between the goals and objectives of the CPFs and, where appropriate, those of the UNSDF in order to facilitate close coordination with UN agencies to address national priorities in sustainable development.
- 17. In this context, the Group stresses the vital role of the National Liaison Officers (NLOs) in TC project design and implementation. The continued strengthening of the NLOs' management capabilities, together with the strengthening of the role of the Programme Management Officer (PMO) and the coordination with the Permanent Missions in Vienna, would be essential to enhance country programme delivery. In this regard, the Group expresses its appreciation for the Agency's support in strengthening the role of the NLO, in particular through the bilateral and virtual NLO meetings. The Group welcomes the inclusion of gender as a consideration in TC project design. Moreover, the Group supports the Agency's efforts to expand female participation in the TC programme, including through encouraging Member States to nominate female NLOs, meeting and workshop participants, fellows and scientific visitors, and counterparts.
- 18. The Group underlines the importance of cancer control in developing countries and urges the IAEA to continue building capacities in developing countries, including those that still have no

access to nuclear medicine, radiation medicine techniques and radiotherapy. The Group encourages the Agency to continue addressing Member States' requirements for comprehensive cancer control capacity and needs through the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), and to foster more regional PACT programmes. The Group highly commends the continued efforts to strengthen collaboration of the Agency with leading cancer organizations and other partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), including in the conduct of imPACT reviews. The Group further welcomes the strengthening of existing partnerships with governments, the private sector and international financing institutions.

19. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Technical Cooperation Report for 2022 contained in document GOV/2023/20.



### G-77 and China Statements during the IAEA Board of Governors, 11-15 September 2023, delivered by H.E. Mr. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

### **Agenda Item 3: Nuclear and Radiation Safety**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to express on behalf of the G.77 and China its sincere condolences to the victims of the earthquake in Morocco. I seize this painful occasion to assure the people and the Government of Morocco of the compassion and solidarity of the G.77 and China in these difficult circumstances.

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank Deputy Director General Lydie Evrard for her remarks under this agenda item, and commends the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security for the preparation of document GOV/2023/36-GC(67)/13, as well as for the work carried out between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023, pursuant to the General Conference resolution GC (66) RES/10.

- 2. The Group attaches great importance to nuclear safety, a key element in any nuclear programme. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety rests with the States, the Group believes that the Agency plays an essential role in this field, as provided for in Article III of the Statute. The Group reiterates its emphasis that the Agency must retain a central role in nuclear safety, owing to its mandatory functions, its broad membership and its longstanding expertise.
- 3. The Group also stresses its principled position that nuclear safety and nuclear security considerations must not hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.
- 4. The Group highlights the importance of maintaining, improving and promoting nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and emergency preparedness and response worldwide. The Group appreciates the Agency's continuous efforts aimed at supporting Member States, especially the developing countries, in capacity building and sharing of knowledge, expertise, technology and information on all aspects of nuclear safety. The Group also welcomes the Agency's activities aimed at supporting nuclear safety infrastructure development in Member States, upon their request. The Group requests the Agency to build on the lessons learnt and experiences gained during the COVID-19 pandemic and enhances its resilience to continue these activities in the face of similar challenges in future.
- 5. The Group appreciates, in particular, the assistance provided by the Agency, upon request, to developing countries operating, expanding or embarking on nuclear power and radiation technology programmes in establishing or enhancing their national safety infrastructure. We value

the activities related to building competence in the regulatory functions, improving leadership and management for safety and promoting safety culture. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts in assisting interested Member States in the development of capacities and technical skills in nuclear safety, as well as in strengthening the regulatory system and infrastructure needed for the development of nuclear energy.

- 6. The Group notes the importance of incorporation, where appropriate, of lessons learned from the 2011 Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, the experience of States in implementing the Action Plan, as well as the observations and lessons contained in the IAEA Fukushima Report and the principles of the Vienna Declaration, into the Agency's programme of work. In this regard, the Group supports the continuation of the Secretariat's cross-departmental activities concerning strengthening nuclear safety.
- 7. The Group reiterates its concern, voiced at previous Board of Governors meetings, regarding the reference to applying a holistic approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs. The Group welcomes the initial consultations held with the Secretariat on this issue and requests continued engagement on any further developments, while taking into consideration the various positions and legal commitments, and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the applicable GC resolutions.
- 8. The Group welcomes the IAEA's commitments to provide long term monitoring and periodic review before, during and after the discharge of water including maintaining an onsite presence at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

- 9. The Group welcomes the continued assistance provided by the Agency to the activities of regional forums and related networks, including the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) and events focused on strengthening collaboration among national authorities, specialists, international organizations, forums and working groups. The Group requests the Secretariat to further pursue activities aimed at strengthening regional safety forums and related networks, as mandated by the General Conference.
- 10. The Group commends the Agency for the activities carried out in the field of radiation safety and environmental protection, including, inter alia, the organization of regional workshops, and appreciates, in particular, the Agency's continued activities aimed at strengthening radiation protection in medicine.
- 11. The Group attaches high importance to transport safety, and appreciates the involvement of the Secretariat in international efforts to discuss issues related to the transport of radioactive material. The Group supports continued efforts by the Agency to address problems related to denials of and delays in the shipment of radioactive material, particularly shipment by air and urges Member States to facilitate the transport of radioactive material, and to identify, if they have not done so, a national focal point on denials on shipment of radioactive materials to achieve a satisfactory and timely resolution of this issue.
- 12. The Group takes note of the First Meeting of the Denial of Shipment Working Group (DoS WG) held in Vienna in January 2023 in order to define the Structure and Terms of

Reference of the Working Group and to identify a way forward to address issues related to denial of shipment of radioactive material.

- 13. The Group notes the activities developed by the Agency in the area of decommissioning and environmental remediation, such as in support to Member States' decommissioning programmes by providing guidance and training material on safe decommissioning and the development of TECDOCs.
- 14. The Group commends the Agency for conducting advisory missions on the regulatory infrastructure for radiation safety.

Mr. Chair,

- 15. The efforts of the Agency in the area of education and training, and knowledge management in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety are of foremost importance to the Group. We reiterate our support for the Agency's efforts to acquire, preserve and transfer knowledge and organizational memory in nuclear safety to Member States.
- 16. The Group appreciates the Agency's activities in the area of Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) and encourages the Agency to continue them. The Group highlights the importance of supporting the work of regional forums and networks through the conduct of regional EPR workshops in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 17. The Group highlights the important role the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) plays in providing guidance on the approach and strategy for establishing the Agency's safety standards and in endorsing for publication standards on nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, in addition to emergency preparedness and response. The Group takes note of the meetings the Commission and the affiliated Committees held during the reporting period, and welcomes the return to the physical format. The Group also takes note of the Secretariat's efforts to optimize and streamline the processing times for publications within existing resources keeping in view the expected increase in safety standards publications over the coming three years.
- 18. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of document GOV/2023/36-GC(67)/13.



### G-77 and China Statements during the IAEA Board of Governors, 11-15 September 2023, delivered by H.E. Mr. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

### **Agenda Item 4: Nuclear Security**

- 1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Security Report 2022, which covers the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, as contained in document GOV/2023/37-GC(67)/14. The Group also expresses its thanks to Deputy Director General Lydie Evrard for her introductory remarks under this agenda item.
- 2. The Group reaffirms the principle that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State. The Group regrets that this important principle has not been reflected once again in the Nuclear Security Report in accordance with the Nuclear Security Resolutions despite the expression of strong concern by the Group. Therefore, the Group urges that this matter be rectified forthwith.
- 3. The Group remains of the view that nuclear security considerations should not hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, and international cooperation in that regard, including through the Technical Cooperation Programme.
- 4. The Group recognizes the importance of coordination among the Agency's departments in development and implementation of its activities, and calls any effort in this regard to be done in full respect of all the positions presented by the Group in particular regarding the allocation of resources for the Technical Cooperation Programme.
- 5. The Group concurs with the notion that the role of the Agency in enhancing nuclear security and the scope of its activities must be determined by Member States, as reflected in the Board decisions and General Conference resolutions, with due account of the need to ensure an appropriate balance between activities in the promotional and non-promotional areas.
- 6. The Group notes that successive General Conference resolutions have affirmed the Agency's central role in assisting Member States for strengthening the nuclear security globally and in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear security. The Agency has responded to these GC resolutions by organizing or participating in a number of major meetings and coordination efforts. The Group appreciates the Agency's efforts in this regard and requests the Secretariat to provide more information in this respect in its future Nuclear Security Reports.
- 7. The Group takes note of the efforts of the Secretariat to distinguish between the Nuclear Security Report and the Nuclear Security Review. The Group expects that the distinction between these two documents and their respective utility will be further developed in future versions.

- 8. The Group appreciates the Agency's continued efforts to assist Member States, upon their request, to build and develop their nuclear security capacity which include facilitating adherence to and implementation of relevant international legal instruments, developing nuclear security guidance and supporting States in the voluntary implementation of the guidance, and helping States in the establishment of effective, sustainable and comprehensive national nuclear security infrastructure.
- 9. The Group reiterates its concern, voiced at previous Board of Governors meetings, regarding the reference to applying a holistic approach to safety-security-safeguards by design for nuclear installations, in particular for SMRs. The Group welcomes the initial consultations held with the Secretariat on this issue and requests continued engagement on any further developments, while taking into consideration the various positions and legal commitments, and in accordance with the IAEA Statute and the applicable GC resolutions.
- 10. The Group welcomes the voluntary reporting of Member States to the Agency's Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB). The Group notes that the Agency does not have the mandate or capability to verify such reporting.
- 11. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue to provide further reassurance that the information, including on the ITDB, is handled with care, especially those with sensitivity and confidentiality.
- 12. With regard to public communication, while the Group welcomes the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to improve communication with the public and Member States about its Nuclear Security activities, the Group stresses the importance of preserving and protecting the confidential information relevant to such activities.
- 13. The Group notes the continued efforts of the Secretariat to develop and implement Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs) to assist Member States, upon request, in applying a structured and comprehensive approach to nuclear security improvements including through capacity building and increased coordination, while also stressing that such information should be handled with care, especially those with sensitivity and confidentiality.
- 14. The Group appreciates the Agency's efforts in responding to requests of Member States for support in information and computer security through developing additional nuclear security guidance and providing training courses.
- 15. The Group also reiterates its appreciation to the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee, the Interface Group, the Advisory Group on Nuclear Security, the International Nuclear Safety Group and the Secretariat for their work on and contributions toward the Agency's Nuclear Security Series publications. The Group notes the Secretariat's efforts to facilitate the participation of Member States in the process of development and review of the Agency's Nuclear Security Series publications. The Group reiterates its call on the Secretariat to facilitate a broader participation of representatives from developing countries in its meetings to ensure greater transparency and consensus in the development and review of such publications.
- 16. Regarding human resource development, the Group appreciates the Agency's continued support of comprehensive human resource development activities to ensure the sustainability of

national nuclear security regimes, including the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN) and International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSCs).

- 17. The Group notes that during the reporting period, the Agency continued its training and train-the-trainers programmes, which resulted in 1529 new users who completed 4542 e-learning modules. The Group further encourages the Secretariat to enhance its activities oriented at capacity-building in Member States, particularly developing countries, thus helping to ensure their adequate human resources.
- 18. The Group takes note of the Agency's activities, undertaken at the request of Member States, in the area of risk reduction and security improvement. The Group calls on the Secretariat to continue its efforts aimed at strengthening the capabilities of Member States in this regard, including in the areas of threat characterization and assessment, the promotion of nuclear security culture, nuclear material accountancy and control, transport security, and nuclear forensics, among others.
- 19. The Group takes note of informal technical briefings by the Secretariat on the progress related to the Nuclear Security Training and Demonstration Centre (NSTDC) and looks forward to its inauguration in October 2023. The Group underscores the need to maximize the potential benefits of this centre, while emphasizing its complementarity with the activities of the Nuclear Security Support Centres (NSSCs) in Member States. The Group requests that the Member States may continue to be kept abreast of the planning of extra budgetary resources needed for the long-term sustainability of the centre.
- 20. The Group is of the view that the Secretariat should avoid ambiguous language in its reports that can be interpreted in different ways and requests the Secretariat to use a language that reflects the broader views of the Agency's Member States.
- 21. The Group notes the Agency's main goals and priorities concerning nuclear security for 2024 and beyond, as identified by the Agency and its Member States and in line with the Nuclear Security Plan 2022-2025, for strengthening nuclear security globally.
- 22. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Nuclear Security Report 2023.



### G-77 and China Statements during the IAEA Board of Governors, 11-15 September 2023, delivered by H.E. Mr. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

### Agenda Item 5: Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications

- 1. The Group of 77 and China thanks the Secretariat for the report on Agency activities in the area of nuclear science, technology and applications, as contained in document GOV/2023/34-GC(67)/11, in response to General Conference resolutions GC(66)/RES/9.A.1, GC(66)/RES/9.A.2, GC(66)/RES/9.A.3, GC(66)/RES/9.A.4 A and GC(66)/RES/9.A.7.
- 2. The work done by the Agency in nuclear power and non-power applications highlights the need to continue increasing the transfer of nuclear technology and the sharing of nuclear knowledge to developing countries so as to enhance their capabilities and thus contribute to maximizing the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Group urges the Agency to continue to provide training and education, to support national and regional laboratories and institutions and to further enhance the coordinated research activities. The Group also welcomes the contributions made by Member States to various Agency projects, and encourages all Member States, in a position to do so, to continue providing such support through the Agency.
- 3. On Annex 1, related to the 'General' part of the non-power nuclear applications, the Group recalls the successful outcomes of the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, co-chaired by Costa Rica and Japan in November 2018 and its Ministerial Declaration. The Group reiterates its position that the Agency should organize a follow-up International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme in 2024. In this regard, the Group looks forward to participating in consultations due to start as early as possible.
- 4. The Group notes with appreciation the continued progress made in the area of human health and medical radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals production, as well as the strengthening of Agency's relationship with WHO. The Group also appreciates the Agency's continued efforts to work with Member States' Collaborating Centres and requests the Secretariat to increase the number of Collaborating Centres from developing countries. The Group further appreciates the Agency's support in facilitating effective research through Coordinated Research Projects (CRPs) to allow research institutes in both developing and developed Member States to collaborate.
- 5. On Annex 2, related to the "Support to the African Union's Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC)", the Group appreciates the Agency's

continuous efforts to support the AU-PATTEC Plan of Action through TC projects providing training, expert services and equipment to countries in the African region affected by this problem, which constitute one of the greatest constraints on the African continent's socio- economic development. The Group encourages the continuation of the Agency's support toward the AU PATTEC initiative and also encourages Member States to contribute additional funds in order to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

- 6. On Annex 3, in relation to the "Renovation of the Agency's Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf", the Group commends the efforts of the Secretariat, Friends of the ReNuAL and Member States of the Agency, in mobilizing resources from traditional and nontraditional donors, including through an initiative to seek further private sector partners utilizing the UN Global Marketplace portal. The Group takes positive note of the resource mobilization made to the ReNuAL 2, so as to ensure that the laboratories are fit-for-purpose and can meet the needs of Member States, well into future
- 7. On Annex 4 related to the "Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) Project", The Group reiterates its support for this project and related activities through the Animal Production and Health Laboratory in Seibersdorf, the VETLAB Network and supporting Member States through interregional TC project INT0098. The Group welcomes the coordination and cooperation with relevant international organizations such the WHO, FAO, WOAH and UNEP, and encourages the Secretariat to continue strengthening their cooperation with international initiatives such as One Health and PREZODE relationships further. The Group takes positive note of the first meeting of the ZODIAC Ad-Hoc Scientific Panel (ZOSP) in January 2023.
- 8. The Group is fully convinced of ZODIAC's positive implications and appreciates that over half of the extrabudgetary funds received and pledged towards ZODIAC have been dedicated to capacity building and training and the Group encourages the Secretariat to continue strengthening its resource mobilization efforts in this regard.
- 9. On Annex 5, "Plan for Producing Potable Water Economically Using Small and Medium Sized or Modular Reactors", the Group supports the various activities undertaken by the Agency to assist Member States in developing sea water desalination using nuclear energy and to collaborate with international organization in this area. The Group appreciates the comprehensive compilation of activities in this regard in various Member States of the Agency. The Group encourages the Secretariat to continue to support Member States in the conduct of innovative projects involving non-electric applications of nuclear power.
- 10. The Group takes note of the Secretariat's NUTEC Plastics initiative, which aims at assisting Member States in harnessing nuclear and isotopic techniques to address the global challenges related to plastic pollution. The Group underscores the leading role played by developing countries in the pilot phase of the Programme, which displays their outsized commitment to furthering collective progress in the sustainable development goals through the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Group also notes the ongoing TC projects and CRPs related to this initiative and welcomes the virtual events and roundtables that the Secretariat has held with Member States, in order to provide them with an important platform to discuss the IAEA ongoing efforts in this field.

- 11. The Group believes that nuclear energy will make an increasing contribution to the sustainable development of human kind throughout the 21st century and beyond. The Group further notes the role played by nuclear power in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring a reliable source of energy, and its contribution to addressing climate change issues and to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Group also welcomes the Agency's growing contributions to support interested Member States in mitigating the challenges of climate change through Nuclear Power and Nuclear Techniques. The Group appreciates the Agency's participation at the 2022 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) recognizing that the role nuclear technology can play in both effectively mitigating and adapting to the increasingly severe consequences of the climate crisis. The Group encourages the Agency's continued engagement in high-level dialogue on nuclear energy and nuclear techniques and applications at COP28.
- 12. The Group notes with appreciation the efforts exerted by the Secretariat in supporting interested Member States in the field of nuclear power application, and its continuous engagement with stakeholders in charge of Nuclear Power Program. The Group also highlights the work done by the Secretariat in providing guidance and capacity building to interested Member States in managing the nuclear fuel cycle, and radioactive waste, as well as enhancing the different aspect of the research reactor life cycle, and strengthening excellence for the safe, secure, efficient, and sustainable operation of nuclear power plants and their life management, including decommissioning.
- 13. The Group values the support provided to Member States embarking on or expanding a nuclear power programme, upon their request, in particular through a variety of advisory and peer review missions, including the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions.
- 14. The Group notes the last International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century which took place in the United States of America in October 2022. The Group attaches importance to regular convening of this Conference and looks forward to interested Member States from the G-77 hosting the Conference in the future, given the growing number of embarking States on Nuclear Power Programmes within the Group.
- 15. On Annex 11 "Agency Activities in the Development of Innovative Nuclear Technology", the Group reiterates the highest importance it attaches to the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO), as a relevant forum gathering technology holders and users with the aim of achieving innovations in nuclear reactors and fuel cycles. The Group welcomes the growing number of the INPRO Member States from the group, and notes with appreciation the developing of multiple Collaborative projects and CRPs in the framework of INPRO, while reiterating its call for continued support for INPRO from the Regular Budget.
- 16. On Annex 13, "Small and Medium-sized or Modular Reactors", the Group underscores the important role these reactors as an option for enhancing energy availability in both expanding and embarking countries, as they are better suited to the small electrical grids of some developing countries. This is in addition to the great potential of the use of SMR technology for non-electric applications. The Group take notes the different activities undertaken by the Agency, such as the approval of new coordinated research projects, the organization of technical and consultancy meetings, and the development of related publications and training material. The Group welcomes

that the Agency is developing the Platform on Small Modular Reactors and their Applications, to ensure a cross-departmental approach and to provide the full array of Agency support and expertise on all aspects of the development, deployment and oversight of SMRs.

17. The Group reiterates its support for the initiative launched by the Director General, titled "Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP)" aimed at to promoting gender equality and diversity in the context of nuclear knowledge management. The Group reaffirms its commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and hopes that this new initiative will help advance this cause. The Group was also satisfied to see that, as stated in the concept paper of the initiative, geographical balance will be a part of the selection criteria for the fellowship.

Mr. Chair,

18. The Group takes note of the variety of data and information presented in the report that showcase the status of nuclear power today, its high prospects in the future, the technology advancements, as well as the different factors and challenges that impact the future deployment of nuclear power plants and reactors, including the availability of funding, fuel sustainability, human resources development and the regulatory frameworks.

Mr. Chair

19. With these comments, the Group takes note of document under this agenda item GOV/2023/34-GC(67)/11

Thank you, Mr. Chair



G-77 and China Statements during the IAEA Board of Governors, 11-15 September 2023, delivered by H.E. Mr. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

Agenda Item 11: Other matters arising from the Sixty-third (2019) and the sixty-fourth (2020) regular sessions of the General Conference: (b) Personnel matters: (i) Staffing of the Agency's Secretariat and ii) Women in the Secretariat

Mr. Chair,

The Group would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest condolences and sympathy to the people and Government of Libya for the recent flood, which caused loss of thousands of human lives, and damage to properties.

- 1. The Group 77 and China would like to thank the Director General for his reports contained in GOV/2023/46-GC(67)/18 and GOV/2023/47-GC(67)/19, on Staffing of the Agency's Secretariat and Women in the Secretariat, respectively.
- 2. The Group notes the Secretariat's continuing efforts to improve, pursuant to General Conference resolutions, its recruitment practices with regard to staff members from developing countries, particularly of women, and from other G-77 Member States, which are unrepresented or underrepresented in the Secretariat, respecting the principle of equitable geographical distribution.
- 3. The Group notes that during the period 1 June 2021 to 1 June 2023, 44.5% of all 173 appointments came from developing Member States, and that 27.8% of the senior staff came from developing countries. The last figure represents a decrease with respect to the previous biennium. Therefore, the Group remains concerned that this percentage is still inadequate, and encourages the Secretariat to exert more effort to increase the number of staff, including senior staff, from developing countries.
- 4. The Group urges the Secretariat to take advantage of the opportunity of next vacancies to work with Member States in order to fully implement General Conference resolutions on recruitment and staffing. The Group welcomes the information that 50.2% of the applications received by the Agency through its new web-based application system for advertised agencies come from developing countries. In addition to proactive measures mentioned in the Director General's report, the Group requests the Director General to ensure transparency in the Secretariat's selection process.
- 5. The Group welcomes the information that the Regular Budget consultant expenditure has decreased by 12.1 % compared to the first year of 2020-2021 biennium as a response to the Group's

request that the Agency rationalize the policy of hiring consultants. However, the Group continues to note with concern the relatively low percentage of consultants from developing countries holding Special Service Agreements. In this regard, the Group requests the Agency to continue its efforts to rationalize the policy of hiring consultants, exercise transparency in their selection and, when necessary, to hire them, apply the policy of equitable geographical distribution, and to continue to identify the nationalities of consultants holding Special Service Agreements in future reports.

- 6. Finally, on the recruitment of women, the Group welcomes the information that the percentage of professional women in the Agency's Regular Staff is now at its highest level in the Agency's history at 42.5%. The Group welcomes also the significant progress on gender representation at the senior grade levels in DDG, D1 and P4, whereby the percentage of women has increased, now reaching 50% at the DDG level, 51.1% at the D1 level and 39% at the P4 level.
- 7. The Group appreciates the important steps taken to enhance the representation of Women at the Agency over the reporting period, including the Director General's announcement to establish a goal of achieving gender parity in the Professional and higher categories by 2025, as well the launch of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP) and of the Lise Meitner Programme (LMP) with the aim of helping increase the number of women in the nuclear field, supporting an inclusive workforce within the Agency. The Group welcomes the progress made in implementing this initiative. The Group also reiterates its call for ensuring equitable geographical representation while achieving gender balance.
- 8. The Group also takes note of the Secretariat's work with Member States to encourage applications by well qualified female candidates to Professional posts. The Group, however, wishes to emphasize that implementation of the General Conference resolution on Women in the Secretariat should not prejudice the implementation of the General Conference resolution on Staffing of the Agency's Secretariat.
- 9. With these comments, the Group notes the documents GOV/2023/46-GC(67)/18 and GOV/2023/47-GC(67)/19.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



### G-77 and China Statements during the IAEA Board of Governors, 11-15 September 2023, delivered by H.E. Mr. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

#### **Agenda Item 12: Any other Business**

Mr Chair,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China to thank you for your successful Chairmanship of the Board of Governors between the 66th and 67th sessions of the General Conference. The Group of 77 commends you and your team for your dedication and hard work over the past year. We wish you all the very best in your future endeavors.

Thank you, Mr Chair



#### G-77 and China Statement during the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee, 20 November 2023, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

#### Agenda Item 2: Technical Cooperation, The Agency's Proposed Programme for 2024-2025

1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the Agency's Proposed Technical Cooperation Program for 2024-2025, as contained in documents GOV/2023/50, Add 1 and Add 2 as well as Mr. Hua Liu, Deputy Director General, and the staff of the Department of Technical Cooperation for the briefing provided to Member States on October 25<sup>th</sup>. We also thank DDG for his introductory remarks under this agenda item.

#### Mr. Chairperson,

- 2. The Group reiterates the paramount importance of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) as the main vehicle for the Agency's statutory function of encouraging and assisting research on, and development and practical application of, atomic energy for peaceful uses throughout the world. The Technical Cooperation Program plays an important role for the sustainable socioeconomic progress in developing countries and contributes towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Group commends in this regard the important role the Technical Cooperation Department plays in carrying out the TCP as mandated by the IAEA Statute.
- 3. The Group also reiterates that the Technical Cooperation Program is a shared responsibility and that, as such, it has to be the result of the combined efforts mainly of the Department of Technical Cooperation, of the technical Departments and of Member States themselves. These efforts are crucial for the planning and successful implementation of the Technical Cooperation Program, which is based on the needs and evolving priorities of those Member States in which TC projects are implemented. In this regard, the Group reiterates that "the nature, extent and scope of technical assistance to be provided to the requesting State or group of States shall be defined by the Government or Governments concerned", as is the established practice and is reflected in paragraph (f) of the Revised Guiding Principles and General Operating Rules to Govern the Provision of Technical Assistance by the Agency (INFCIRC/267), and in preambular paragraph (l) of Resolution GC(67)/RES/9. The Group is of the view that this important principle should continue to guide the provision of Technical Cooperation by the Agency and requests the Secretariat to reflect it explicitly in future proposed Programmes, in particular in the section on the programming process.

Mr. Chairperson,

- 4. The Group notes that Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) target for 2024 is € 96 million, as decided by the General Conference in September 2023, and that for 2025 it is €98 million as per the recommendation submitted to the Board of Governors (GOV/2023/32). The Group also notes that a rate of attainment of 94% has been used as a basis for calculating the resources that are expected to be available and that this Committee is consequently expected to recommend the sum of up to €94,751,332 to the Board for approval. The Group emphasises the importance of the TCF in the implementation of the TCP and while appreciating the continued commitment of Member States over the years, reiterates its call on all Member States to pay their contributions in accordance with the indicative scale of assessment in full and on time. The Group also requests the secretariat to work closely with Member States to achieve high-level rates of attainment on payments to the TCF.
- 5. The Group reiterates its view that the resources available for the TC Programme should be sufficient, assured and predictable to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute, and should be increased taking into account the Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs), the increasing number of Member States with a national TCP, the increasing needs of the developing countries and the unmet demands in this regard, the evolution in the level of the regular budget, the Board's decision of June 2016 to place the appropriate emphasis on the Agency's activities directly related to the implementation of the SDGs in Member States, the large unfunded components of TC projects in Member States, also termed as footnote a/ projects, the price increases and other relevant factors.
- 6. The Group notes that the total Footnote-a/Activities amount to €67.3 million in 2024 and to €59.1 million in 2025. These figures show that the current level of resources available falls short of the resources needed. The significant increase in the proposed funding of the Footnote-a/Activities for 2024-2025 indicates an urgent need to increase the TCF targets for the upcoming years in order to meet the increasing demands of Member States. The Group further stresses the importance of maintaining an adequate balance between the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.
- 7. The Group also welcomes the decision taken by the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference, as mandated in GC(67)/RES/9 on convening a follow-up to the 2018 Ministerial Conference on nuclear science, technology and applications and the Technical Cooperation Programme in 2024 with a view to convening it every four years thereafter, and requests the Secretariat to commence consultations with Member States in preparation for the Conference as soon as possible.
- 8. The Group looks forward to the active participation of the IAEA and DG Grossi in the upcoming United Nations 2023 Climate Change Conference (COP28). The Group takes positive note of the efforts of the Agency in promoting peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and other nuclear applications and techniques as a means to help mitigate and adapt to Climate Change and achieve zero carbon emissions. In that regard, the Group welcomes the Scientific Forum Nuclear Innovation for Net Zero held in the margins of the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference.
- 9. The Group reaffirms the principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance including the commitment to women empowerment, and appreciates the important steps taken to enhance the representation of women in the Secretariat. The Group reiterates that these

principles should be reflected in all the Technical Cooperation activities of the IAEA. The Group expresses its concern on the significant under-representation of developing countries in the Secretariat which needs to be addressed properly, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution. While the Group continues to request the Secretariat to significantly improve equitable geographical distribution and gender balance within the Agency at all levels of responsibility.

#### Mr. Chairperson,

10. With these remarks, the Group joins the consensus in having the Committee recommend to the Board the actions listed in the Agency's proposed Technical Cooperation program as contained in document GOV/2023/50, as well as Add 1 and Add 2, and requests that its views and comments be duly reflected in the official records of the TACC meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



#### G-77 and China Statement during the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee, 20 November 2023, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

#### Agenda item 3: Evaluation of technical cooperation activities in 2023

- 1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for presenting its evaluation of the Agency's technical cooperation activities in 2023, as contained in document GOV/2023/52. The Group also thanks the OIOS for the technical briefing.
- 2. The Group continues to attach great importance to the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) to strengthen the Agency's ability to ensure management efficiency and programme effectiveness, and to enhance accountability. The Group also takes note of the evaluation results of the six CLEAs undertaken in 2023, with the intention of helping to strengthen the management of TC activities through systematic solutions.
- 3. The Group notes that the overall cost of the OIOS activities rose from €644,751 in 2022 to €700,871. The Group stresses that the OIOS should, in the course of their regular work and within resources allocated to these offices from the Regular Budget, evaluate projects, in a balanced manner across all major programmes.
- 4. In this regard, the Group encourages the OIOS to perform evaluations of the activities of the other departments in the Agency, so that evaluation activities are applied in a balanced manner across all major programmes. The Group stresses the importance of a balanced allocation of resources for evaluation purposes between TC-related activities and other activities of the Agency, which require similarly intensive evaluation, since these activities account for a larger portion of the Agency's budget. Given the increasing demands on the Agency's budgetary, human and other resources, the Group encourages the OIOS to carry out its audit and evaluation functions in an effective and judicious manner, utilizing opportunities for synergies presented by other existing audit, evaluation and assessment mechanisms in the Agency and in the Member States.
- 5. The Group takes positive note of the OIOS' finding that, overall, the TC Programme quality review process was making a significant contribution to the quality of project designs, which in turn facilitated the implementation of TC projects in Member States; and that the management of the TC programme had improved consistently over the past decade.

- 6. The Group further notes that the Report on the evaluation of technical cooperation activities in 2023 has made 21 recommendations, for which the Secretariat provided action plans to guide their implementation.
- 7. The Group notes that 9 Programme Evaluation Recommendations and 48 Internal Audit Recommendations are overdue this year. It is pertinent to note that the overdue recommendations for both the Programme Evaluation and Internal Audit are not related to TC activities and that they are Agency wide activities. Such a fact underlines the importance of striking a balanced approach in evaluating all the activities of the Agency. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue working towards the implementation of these recommendations, as appropriate.

Mr. Chair,

- 8. The Group takes note of the key cross-cutting findings and recommendations highlighted in the synthesis report. In particular, the Group notes that there were delays of the Agency activities in all six CLEA countries, which suggests fundamental and systematic design issues as well as other problems with project implementation. The delays caused by the lengthy times for TC procurements, as highlighted in the report, are also a source of concern. Every measure in order to enhance effectiveness of the TCP is welcome. In this regard, the Group looks attentively to the implementation of the PCMF+, urges that the comments made in the report are taken into consideration, and looks forward to the results of the new management tool.
- 9. The Group reaffirms the principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance including the commitment to women empowerment, and appreciates the important steps taken to enhance the representation of women in the Secretariat. The Group reiterates that these principles should be reflected in all the Technical Cooperation activities of the IAEA. The Group expresses its concern on the significant under-representation of developing countries in the Secretariat which needs to be addressed properly, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution. The Group continues to request the Secretariat to significantly improve equitable geographical distribution and gender balance within the Agency at all levels of responsibility.
- 10. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Evaluation of Technical Cooperation Activities in 2023, as contained in document GOV/2023/52, and requests that its views and comments be duly reflected in the official records of the TACC meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



#### G-77 and China Statement during the IAEA Board of Governors, 22-24 November 2023, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

### Agenda Item 8 - Any other business: Report on the Implementation of Strategic Guidelines on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

Mr. Chairperson,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China thanks the Director General for the preparation of the report on the Implementation of Strategic Guidelines on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, as contained in document GOV/INF/2023/15
- 2. The Group takes positive note of the steps and efforts taken by the Secretariat in implementing these Strategic Guidelines as agreed by the Board in June 2015, including through (a) strengthening of internal information sharing and coordination mechanisms, (b) development of internal tools and processes, (c) capacity-building of staff members, (d) enhanced communication and outreach.
- 3. The Group appreciates the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to support Member States in building partnerships and in mobilizing resources, such as actions related to partnerships with Member State institutions to promote technology transfer, and partnerships with international financial institutions, development cooperation agencies, regional organizations, private sector and foundations, universities and academic institutions, national and international professional and research organizations, UN and other International Organizations (IOs).
- 4. The Group also takes note of the work of the Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Coordination Committee (PRMCC), supplemented by two sub-committees, with an aim to provide guidance to the Agency's different departments on vetting non-traditional partners, and to ensure that additional complexities and potential risks of entering into partnerships with these donors are adequately addressed in advance.
- 5. The Group also welcomes the approach taken by the Secretariat during the planning of the 2024-2025 Programme and Budget to align resource mobilization with identified unfunded programmatic activities with a view to secure the needed financial support for such activities and their full implementation. Such an approach gains significant importance given the increasing number of commendable initiatives launched by the Director General over the last two years, including inter alia the Rays of Hope, the Lisa Meitner Programme, GloWAL and the Atoms4Food initiative.
- 6. The Group welcomes the Secretariat's renewed focus on bringing new partners and expresses appreciation for support provided by traditional and non-traditional donors, including from developing countries, which has supplemented the limited resources of the Agency.

#### Mr. Chairperson,

7. The Group would like to reiterate its opinion that the Strategic Guidelines on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization have the potential to strengthen the Agency's capacity

to tap into new and additional resources through resource mobilization and public-private partnerships, and that, in the case of Technical Cooperation, these resources would complement the sources of funding to the TC Programme.

- 8. The Group stresses its principled position that additional sources of funding, such as public-private partnerships and extra-budgetary funding, cannot replace the Technical Cooperation Fund, which is essential for a sustainable and strategic TC Programme. The Group also stresses the importance of ensuring that the resources of the TC Programme are sufficient, assured and predictable.
- 9. On that note, the Group calls upon the Secretariat to exert additional resource mobilization efforts in order to commensurate with the unprecedented increase in the total amount of unfunded operational and capital activities planned in 2024-2025 Programme and Budget, which amount to over €375 million, in addition to footnote A activities. The Group reiterates its precautionary call against the overreliance of extrabudgetary activities in the future programme and budget planning.
- 10. Finally, the Group requests the Secretariat to organise a briefing session at the earliest convenience to highlight the main elements and technical aspects of the report, and respond to Member States inquiries in this regard, given the significance of this report and its strategic impact on the work of the IAEA. The Group also looks forward to receiving periodic updates on the activities undertaken on the implementation of the Strategic Guidelines every two years.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)



#### Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the 66th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna, 13-17 March 2023, delivered by H.E. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan

#### Mr. Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China congratulates H.E. Ambassador Miguel Camilo RUIZ BLANCO on his election as the Chair of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission, as well as to the other elected members of the Bureau. The Group pledges to the Chair its full cooperation to make the present session a success.
- 2. The Group reiterates its full support to H.E. Madam Ghada Waly, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, and reinforces its commitment to continue working with you to achieve more progress toward better policies and programs to effectively address and counter the world drug problem.
- 3. The Group would like to express its appreciation for the commendable efforts of the Chairperson and the Secretariat for the preparation and organization of this session.

- 4. The Group reiterates that addressing and countering the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility that should be undertaken in a multilateral setting through effective, concrete and increased regional, sub regional and international cooperation, based on an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced, scientific evidence-based and comprehensive approach with a view to promoting and protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of all humanity.
- 5. The Group is concerned that, regardless of its evolving nature, the World Drug Problem persists and stresses the need for the global community to redouble efforts to effectively address and counter it based on the principle of common and shared responsibility.
- 6. The Group stresses the importance of international cooperation, enhanced capacity building initiatives, programs and activities, provision of equipment and technology and technical assistance, particularly for developing countries, in an open, transparent and equitable way, to allow them to have sufficient resources to address and counter the world drug problem.
- 7. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and to avoid promulgating and imposing any measures and actions on developing countries not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities to address and counter the world drug problem.
- 8. The Group recognizes the efforts undertaken by our relevant national authorities, including among others, law enforcement, criminal justice, customs services, health and education, in addressing and countering the world drug problem.



- 9. The Group reiterates that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system.
- 10. The Group reaffirms its unwavering commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction and related measures, supply reduction and related measures, and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States.

- 11. The Group reaffirms our commitments to prevent, significantly and measurably reduce or eliminate illicit cultivation, production, manufacturing, trafficking, of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as the diversion of and illicit trafficking in precursors and money-laundering and illicit financial flows related to illicit drugs; as well as the illicit demand and abuse of drugs by promoting effective and comprehensive scientific evidence-based initiatives as well as initiatives and measures aimed at minimizing the adverse public health and social consequences of drug abuse.
- 12. The Group reiterates the importance of strengthening international cooperation, and affirms the need to address drug-related socio-economic issues related to the illicit cultivation, manufacture and production of, and trafficking in drugs through the implementation of long-term comprehensive and sustainable development oriented and balanced drug control policies and programs.
- 13. Transit States and other Member States continue to face multifaceted challenges, and the Group reaffirms the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance specially modern technologies and equipment to, inter alia, enhance their capacities to effectively address and counter the world drug problem, in conformity with the 1988 Convention, and, as appropriate, the other drug control conventions.
- 14. The Group remains fully committed to implementing the 2009 Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, to addressing the general challenges and priorities for action identified in the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the High Level Review in March 2014, as well as implementing the UNGASS 2016 outcome document and the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, and further looks forward to a meaningful Midterm Review at the High Level Segment of the upcoming 67<sup>th</sup> session of the CND to take stock of the implementation of all international drug policy commitments and to outline the way forward to 2029.
- 15. The Group emphasizes the need for sustainable and sufficient resources for the UNODC to enhance its capacity-building initiatives, programs and activities particularly for developing countries upon their request, including for the provision of the equipment, technology and technical assistance.



- 16. The Group emphasizes the need for continuous support from UNODC to Member States upon their request to enhance their national efforts to establish a balanced, integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary and scientific evidence-based approach to address and counter the world drug problem, especially on the implementation of the three international drug control conventions, and of all our international drug policy commitments.
- 17. The Group recognizes that there are persistent, new and evolving challenges that should be addressed in conformity with the three international drug control conventions, which allow for sufficient flexibility for States parties to design and implement national drug policies according to their priorities and needs, consistent with the principle of common and shared responsibility and applicable international law.

Mr. Chair,

- 18. The Group reaffirms its determination to address and counter the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to help to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity, and reaffirm our determination to address public health, safety and social problems resulting from drug abuse.
- 19. In this regard, the Group recognizes the importance of appropriately mainstreaming a gender and age perspective into drug-related policies and programmes and that appropriate emphasis should be placed on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole, with a particular focus on women, children and youth, with a view to promoting and protecting health, including access to treatment, safety and the well-being of all humanity.
- 20. The Group of 77 and China emphasizes the need for the international community, in particular developed countries by providing means of implementation, to accelerate the ongoing efforts to address and counter the world drug problem.

Thank you for your attention.



## STATEMENT BY THE G-77 AND CHINA AT THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO ELABORATE A COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON COUNTERING THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES FOR CRIMINAL PURPOSES,

#### DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. MOHAMED HAMDY MOHAMED ELMOLLA VIENNA, 21 APRIL 2023

Madame Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

- 1. This is the first time that the Group G77 and China is taking the floor during the deliberations of this Ad Hoc Committee. We would like to commend the hard work of the Chair, Ambassador Faouzia Mebarki of Algeria, in leading the work of this Committee and supported so ably by the Officers of the Committee, the Secretariat and Co-Facilitators.
- 2. The Group appreciates the efforts by the Chair in preparing the Consolidated Negotiating Documents which provide a good foundation for further discussions by the Ad Hoc Committee. In this regard, the Group would like to highlight the importance of having quality and timely translations into all UN official languages.
- 3. The Group will continue to actively participate in the implementation of UNGA Resolution 74/247 on elaboration of a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes within the framework of the United Nations. We support the elaboration of a convention that takes into account, inter alia, the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries, to achieve a comprehensive, technologically neutral Convention, ensuring fullest possible international cooperation to facilitate seamless exchange of information and evidence to counter crimes.
- 4. The Group stresses the importance of international cooperation and technical assistance, as central pillars of the envisaged Convention to address the challenges and meet the needs of developing countries in countering the scourge of these crimes, and therefore supports the inclusion of provisions that seeks to facilitate and strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance including transfer of technology, where applicable and upon request by Member States, to build the capacity of their national authorities.
- 5. The Group would like to underscore the importance of addressing the causes and factors that make different segments of society more vulnerable to these crimes, and therefore the Group is of the firm view that the envisaged Convention should address these vulnerabilities by also taking into account the socio-economic and technological

development of developing countries and including provisions to support their efforts to effectively prevent and be protected from the different criminal manifestations related to our discussions.

#### Madame Chair,

- 6. The Group also emphasizes the relevant role that the envisaged Convention can play to strengthen the prevention, investigatory, prosecutorial and judicial powers of the functionaries of the criminal justice system in combating these crimes at the national, regional, and international levels.
- 7. The Group takes this opportunity to thank all the co-facilitators and their teams for their hard work. In this regard, the Group looks forward to seeing the concerns raised thus far by its Member States included in the zero draft of the envisaged Convention as well as its early circulation in order to give ample time to study the document ahead of the crucial sixth session in New York in August and sincerely hopes that the process will continue to be transparent and inclusive.
- 8. Finally, the Group affirms its commitment to engage constructively and in good faith with all delegations in the sixth session of the Ad Hoc Committee. We remain optimistic that we will be able to agree on a draft convention to be submitted to the General Assembly at its 78th session.

Thank you.



## STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA AT THE THIRTY SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 22 TO 26 MAY 2023 DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. AFTAB AHMAD KHOKHER, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN

#### Madam Chair,

- 1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the CCPCJ, as well as to the other elected members of the Bureau. You can count on the full support of the Group for the successful conclusion of this meeting.
- 2. We also extend our thanks to the Secretariat for the excellent work done in preparation of this session.
- 3. We reaffirm our commitment towards the objectives set forth by the 14<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including by supporting the holding of the Commission's intersessional thematic discussion, and call all Member States to continue their efforts for a balanced and integral implementation of the Kyoto Declaration in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to strengthen the work on the capacity-building, support and the provision of adequate, long-term, sustainable, effective and demand driven technical and material assistance, including equipment and transfer of technology.

#### Madam Chair,

- 4. We reaffirm the need to enhance bilateral, regional, subregional and international cooperation in criminal matters aimed at preventing and combating transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including issues related to extradition and mutual legal assistance, and call upon Member States to adopt practical approaches that would facilitate such cooperation.
- 5. We reiterate our serious concern over any form of ranking of Member States for the purposes of international cooperation in criminal matters. We remain strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and avoid promulgating, maintaining and imposing any measures and actions, including sanctions and restrictions, on developing countries that are not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities on crime prevention and criminal justice matters.

#### Madam Chair,

- 6. We welcome the outcome documents of the 9th session of the COSP UNCAC and the progress made in the implementation of the Convention, including through its mechanism for the review. We reaffirm our commitment to the Political Declaration adopted during the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Corruption in June 2021 and look forward for its proper follow-up within UNCAC's subsidiary bodies.
- 7. We highlight the necessity to take urgent measures to prevent, prosecute and deter all forms of corruption, to strengthen international cooperation to effectively prevent and

counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows and enhance measures for the identification, tracing, freezing, seizure, and recovery of the proceeds of crime or corruption, to deny them safe havens through their eventual confiscation as well as to speed up their recovery and return without restrictions and in accordance with Chapter V of the UNCAC.

- 8. We deeply regret that despite the very explicit articles of the UNCAC, there appears to be an increase in the barriers and challenges in the asset recovery process and their return to countries of origin, and in cases that make use of settlements, and in this regard, remind that States Parties shall afford one another the widest measures of international cooperation, and furthermore emphasize that the management, administration and utilization of returned assets is the responsibility of the requesting State and that recovered assets, shall be returned without conditionalities and in full respect of the sovereign rights of the States of origin. We further invite State Parties to address gaps within the international anticorruption framework particularly on asset recovery, and to consider the need of an additional protocol on asset recovery and the return as part of UNCAC.
- 9. We welcome the thematic discussion of the 32nd session of the CCPCJ on "Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society".
- 10. We recognize the importance of legal aid as an enabler for providing access to Justice for All and are cognizant of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Principles and Guidelines for Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems and their contributions in this regard.
- 11. We welcome the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, within the framework of the United Nations, under the able leadership of the Chair Ambassador Mebarki of Algeria and the assistance of the Secretariat. We reaffirm our commitment to engage constructively and in good faith with all delegations in the sixth session of the Ad Hoc Committee and remain optimistic that we will be able to agree on a draft convention to be submitted to the General Assembly at its 78th session, in a manner that also adresses the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries.

#### Madam Chair,

- 12. We attach great importance to combating Trafficking in Persons and any initiative to combat this crime should give due importance to addressing root causes, the prevention aspect, respecting the rights of the victims and promoting effective law enforcement, the demand aspect of this problem and providing assistance to victims, and groups in vulnerable situations, especially women and children. We therefore strongly call attention to the necessity for a full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
- 13. We express concern over the constant violation of the rights of migrants and urge the international community to ensure that the human rights of smuggled migrants, particularly the unaccompanied children, are respected and that the safety and security of smuggled migrants are granted utmost priority regardless of their immigration status, nationality, gender, ethnicity, age or religion.
- 14. Regarding trafficking on firearms we reaffirm our concerns about the continuing problem of illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts, components and ammunition as another form of transnational organized crime.

15. We acknowledge any existing, increasing or potential links, in some cases, between transnational organized crime and other illicit activities, in particular drug trafficking and money laundering, illicit financial flows and terrorism and its financing, and reaffirm the need for enhancing bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including in the areas of exchange of information, extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with domestic legislation and with the aim to contributing to countering the threat posed by transnational organized crime.

#### Madam Chair,

- 16. We call upon all Member States to develop and implement a comprehensive crime prevention and justice system policy, with a view to prevent the involvement of children in criminal activities and in this regard to integrate children's perspective into crime prevention policies and the overall rule of law efforts.
- 17. We reiterate the importance of the use and application of the United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, namely the Bangkok Rules, the Nelson Mandela Rules, as well as the Beijing Rules, in support of effective, fair, humane, and accountable criminal justice systems, especially for women and children.
- 18. We deplore the rise of hate crimes around the world and in this regard underline the importance of respect for the diversity of religions and beliefs as well as ethnic and cultural diversity, and call for all States to undertake necessary measures to promote a culture of tolerance and respect among societies and nations based on the principles of the international law.
- 19. We wish to express our particular concern for the illicit trafficking of cultural property and related offences, including the involvement of organized criminal groups, which continues to inflict increasing damage to the cultural heritage of our nations, and thus, to part of our identities.
- 20. We underscore the need to address crimes that have a significant impact on protected species of wild fauna and flora such as, illegal mining, illicit trafficking in forest products, biological and natural resources, wildlife, as well as precious metals, in the respective fora.
- 21. We underscore the need to better understand and enhance our efforts, in accordance with each Member's national law, against the smuggling of commercial goods.

#### Madam Chair,

- 22. On the issue of preventing and combatting of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the Group calls for strengthening international responses, in accordance with national legislation and the implementation and application of the UNTOC, and all applicable regional and international counterterrorism legal instruments, as well as the comprehensive, balanced and effective implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. We strongly reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnicity, and reiterates that all efforts to counter it should be in line with international law.
- 23. We recognize the positive role played by the intergovernmental working group to improve the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (FINGOV) as an appropriate forum for a fruitful dialogue on UNODC's

program development and implementation. We look forward for the achievement of the full potential of its current format.

- 24. We reiterate that UNODC needs adequate and sustainable resources to allow it to effectively implement an increasingly complex mandate. Therefore, we urge all States to increase their unconditional contributions, specifically to the General Purpose Fund of UNODC.
- 25. We stress the need to reinforce efforts on the Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters and express concern that equitable geographical representation from developing countries and gender balance are still to be achieved, especially at the senior and policy-making levels of the UNODC.
- 26. Therefore, we urge the Executive Director to intensify the efforts to ensure that adequate, and proper equitable geographical distribution and gender balance are fully incorporated, as principles, in the recruitment policy of UNODC, both at headquarters, and its Field Offices, particularly at the senior and policy-making levels and for professional posts requiring specific skills. In this context, we request the Executive Director to continue providing comprehensive, disaggregated and detailed information through the reporting entitlements and in the context FINGOV meetings in this regard.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



## GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA STATEMENT AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE RECONVENED 66<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE CND AND THE RECONVENED 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 cochairpersonship of this joint meeting of the two Commissions. The Group also appreciates Ambassador Mary Mugwanja of Kenya for her leadership and for chairing the 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 67<sup>th</sup> 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.



## G-77 and China statement during the Tenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Atlanta, United States of America, 11-15 December 2023, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

#### Mr. President,

- 1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, it is my pleasure to congratulate you on your election as President of the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the States Parties, and to the other elected members of the Bureau. The Group thanks the outgoing President, Egypt, and the other members of the Bureau, for their excellent leadership during the last 2 years;
- 2. The Group also thanks the government of the United States for hosting this Conference in Atlanta.
- 3. The Group commends efforts of the Secretariat for making timely preparations for the Conference, including useful background documents made available.
- 4. The Group welcomes those State Parties that have acceded to the Convention since the previous Conference of States Parties.
- 5. The phenomenon of corruption continues to be one of the major challenges to security and stability, rule of law, and sustainable socioeconomic development of our societies. On the occasion of the twentieth year anniversary of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the Group reiterates the need for preventing and combatting corruption more effectively by further promoting the full and effective implementation of the UNCAC and underlines the critical role of the Conference of the States Parties in this regard.
- 6. The Group recognizes that preventing and countering illicit financial flows and recovering and returning confiscated assets, in accordance with the UNCAC, can contribute to effective resource mobilization, poverty eradication, sustainable development and the enjoyment of all human rights, and we will step up our efforts in this regard.
- 7. In this regard, the Group appreciates all initiatives and efforts of its Member States, in promoting the implementation of the Convention, including through tabling of resolutions.
- 8. The Group takes note with appreciation of the ongoing efforts at different levels to achieve the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including its Sustainable Development Goals. Such efforts reinforce the comprehensive approach to substantially reducing corruption in all its forms and at all levels, including measures to address its underlying causes.

#### Mr. President,

9. The Group recalls the Political Declaration "Our common commitment to effectively addressing challenges and implementing measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation" adopted at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session against Corruption in 2021.

- 10. The Group wishes to recall the 'Kyoto Declaration' adopted by the 14th UN Crime Congress in 2021, in which Member States reaffirmed their commitment to develop, adequately resource and implement effective policies and measures, to analyze corruption and strengthening the integrity, transparency and accountability of public institutions, to prevent, detect, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate corruption in a holistic manner for ending impunity.
- 11. In this regard, the Group welcomes the follow-up processes on those outcome documents.

#### Mr. President,

- 12. The Group reiterates the importance of developing and promoting effective measures, policies and practices aimed at prevention of corruption, and in this regard stresses the need to enhance efforts in accordance with Chapter II of the Convention.
- 13. The Group deeply regrets that despite the very explicit articles of the Convention, barriers and challenges in the asset recovery process appear to be on the increase. The Group therefore underscores that the return of assets is a fundamental principle of the Convention as stated under Article 51, and States Parties shall afford one another the widest measures of international cooperation in the recovery and return of assets in accordance with the Convention and their domestic law.
- 14. The Group emphasizes that the management, administration, and utilization of returned assets is solely the responsibility of the requesting State and that recovered assets shall be returned without conditionalities and in full respect of the sovereign rights of the states of origin and the Convention.
- 15. The Group calls on the States Parties, at the present session of the Conference, to commit to accelerating the development of international cooperation, in asset recovery, and urges all States Parties to remove barriers associated with implementing Article 46 of the Convention, on mutual legal assistance.
- 16. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations development system and to avoid promulgating and imposing any measures and actions on developing countries in contravention of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, is essential to improve solidarity, international cooperation framework and reinforce States' capabilities to prevent and combat corruption. In this regard, the Group reiterates its serious concern over the ranking of Member States in all forms and levels in criminal matters as well as barriers and challenges that are still encountered by States Parties on international cooperation and urges all States Parties to adhere to Article 4 of the Convention and uphold the principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States as well as non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other States.
- 17. The Group also calls upon all State Parties to avoid unilateral actions and sanctions that weaken the international cooperation framework and impede States Parties' capabilities to prevent and fight against corruption.
- 18. The Group takes note of the Report of the High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda.

#### Mr. President,

- 19. The Group emphasizes the importance of the effective functioning of the Implementation Review Mechanism of the Convention, in accordance with its Terms of Reference set out in Resolution 3/1, UNGASS Declaration OP76 and OP77 which should be fully and consistently respected throughout the review process. In addition, the Group reiterates its position to consolidate and maintain the guiding principles and characteristics of the Mechanism, including its intergovernmental nature.
- 20. The Group remains of the firm view that Implementation Review Mechanism requires sustainable and predictable funding to ensure its efficient, continued, and impartial functioning. Therefore, the Group reiterates its position that the Mechanism should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations in accordance with the Terms of Reference.
- 21. Technical assistance, capacity-building, material support and transfer of technology, where applicable are crosscutting issues and are crucial for effective and efficient implementation of the Convention, and thus needs to be given special attention. The Group appreciates the role of UNODC in providing, within its mandate and upon request, relevant technical assistance activities at national, regional, and global levels based on the needs and priorities of State Parties, including those identified during the Review Process. The Group calls for sufficient, predictable and sustainable funding to develop and implement programs and projects for the purpose of capacity-building and technical assistance.
- 22. In conclusion, the Group looks forward to fruitful deliberations during the current session.

I thank you Mr. President.

### COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)



#### STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE 60TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP B, 13 TO 24 MARCH 2023

#### delivered by H.E. Laura Virginia Faxas, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic

Mr. Chair, dear Excellencies and colleagues,

- 1. I would like to begin by expressing on behalf of the Group our deepest condolences to the peoples of Syria and Türkiye over the loss of life and large-scale destruction caused by the latest earthquake.
- 2. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Dr Erlan Batyrbekov, conducting our work in this 60th Session of Working Group B together with the Vice-Chair and Task Leaders. The Group would like to assure you of its full cooperation.
- 3. The Group congratulates H.E. Ambassador Benno Laggner, Permanent Representative of Switzerland on his election as Chairperson of the Preparatory Commission for the year 2023 and welcomes the appointment of the Vice Chairpersons of the Commission and of WG-B. The Group thanks H.E. Ambassador Dario Ernesto Chiru Ochoa, Permanent Representative of Panama for chairing the Preparatory Commission during 2022.
- 4. We would also like to thank Dr. Robert Floyd, the Executive Secretary, for his opening remarks and take note of his report on verification related activities for the period from July to December 2022. The Group also takes note of the documents prepared for this session by the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS), appreciates the PTS efforts in making them available in a timely manner. The Group also considers that States Signatory would benefit from technical briefings on the reports submitted to policy-making organs.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Group stresses the need for an early Entry Into Force of the CTBT and commends all efforts that have been made towards the universalization of the Treaty with the ultimate goal to eliminate nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. In this regard, the Group welcomes the latest ratification of the Treaty by the Solomon Islands, a G-77 Member. The Group notes with appreciation the efforts undertaken within the Art. XIV Conference on facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty, including the efforts by South Africa and Italy as Co-Presidents of the 2021 Conference and looks forward to the convening of the upcoming Conference.

- 6. The Group looks forward to contributing to all discussions and work in preparation of the upcoming Science and Technology Conference 2023 (SnT2023), that will take place between 19 to 23 of June 2023, at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna. This Conference paves the way to continue our discussions and potentially assist States Signatories in identifying new and improved technologies, which may benefit the Treaty's verification regime. The Group notes with satisfaction of the success of the previous Conference held in 2021 and reiterates—that the Conference was an effective platform for an exchange of knowledge and ideas between the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO and the broader scientific community. The Group also appreciates the successful hosting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Science and Diplomacy Symposium, held in 2022, which provided an opportunity for sharing of expertise and youth participation.
- 7. The Group reiterates its principled position on the importance of sustaining a balanced approach, including in allocating resources and time, among the three Major Programmes of the verification regime, namely the International Monitoring System (IMS), the International Data Centre (IDC) and On-Site Inspection (OSI). To this end, it calls once more on the PTS to seek the necessary efficiencies in the process, to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty, upon Entry Into Force, is balanced, coherent, and robust while furthering its efficiency.

- 8. On specific verification related activities conducted by the PTS, as contained in the Executive Secretary's report, the Group stresses the importance of the PTS conforming with its mandate and would like to make the following remarks:
- a) The Group notes the continuous progress, within the provisional operational nature of the IMS, as reported by the PTS, on the joint efforts of the States hosting IMS facilities, local operator and the PTS. The Group also notes that the data availability of certified IMS stations remained high and automated products of the IDC met the timeliness requirements. The Group further notes the efforts of the PTS in identifying challenges that led to a slight decline in some unauthenticated data and looks forward to implementation of measures to remedy these challenges.
- b) Regarding the IMS, the Group takes note of the activities undertaken by the PTS during the reporting period, in particular the progress achieved towards the installations and certification of remaining Stations in developing countries, which illustrates the strong political commitment and material contributions of developing countries to the work of this Organization. The Group further takes note that during the reporting period, the total number of installed stations and certified stations are 300 (93.4%) and 304 (90.2%) respectively.
- c) The Group would like to reaffirm that any activities related to the funding, maintenance, and provisional operation of the IMS stations by the PTS, and any related action or decision by the Prepcom, should respect the decisions of the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the territorial integrity of States. The Group highlights the importance to engage in construction maintenance and/or relocation of IMS facilities with full respect of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.
- d) The Group looks forward to finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, as a matter of priority at the next in person session of the PrepCom. In this

connection, the Group appreciates the work carried out by the previous Co-facilitators Ambassador Molekane and Ambassador Laggner, as per the mandate outlined by the PrepCom.

- e) Regarding the International Data Center Progressive Commissioning, the Group would like to emphasize the importance of continued involvement of experts in conducting the experiments, including the participation of experts from developing countries. The Group looks forward to further briefings on the progressive commissioning of the IMS and the IDC, the validation and acceptance test plan, which included five test plan experiments scheduled by the PTS in 2023, noting that the milestones for progressive commission are not time bound and are requirement-based. The Group further believes that the evaluation report should include how past identified performance shortfalls were addressed the assessment report on the four experiments and update of the IDC validation and acceptance test plan (VATP) for future experiments. The Group also requests that the PTS consider introducing provisions in the VATP to measure the quality of IDC in fulfilling the verification objectives and test the provisions in the next set of experiments.
- f) The Group reaffirms the importance of the programme of work for the period 2022-23 that would validate the outcomes of the OSI action plan 2016-2019, the third training cycle for inspectors, and the development of OSI techniques. In order to increase the integrity of the activities of the OSI section, the development of a unified/single plan for OSI called the "OSI Development Plan" is necessary. It could include an operational and an exercise plan that will address the validation and verification process of each method, technology, and equipment. The Group looks forward to participating in the preparations for the next Integrated Field Exercise (IFE) for 2025, which will benefit several States Signatories, including through several regional introductory courses (RICs).
- g) On the Radionuclide Monitoring System, the Group takes note of the continued work on the completion of ongoing installation and certification projects and the implementation of major upgrade and revalidation projects, as well as the maintenance of stations, which is carried out with Signatory States.

- 9. The Group would like to highlight the importance of capacity building activities, especially through technical trainings, workshops, and capacity building courses including the NDCs4All initiative, and expresses its appreciation for the PTS's efforts to continue providing and expanding capacity-building activities despite COVID-19 pandemic and movement restrictions, through organizing online workshops and trainings. We reaffirm the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance to, inter alia, ensure that all States Signatories, in particular developing countries, have the capacity to effectively participate in the verification regime of the Treaty, and implement obtained knowledge and capacities at the national, regional and international levels.
- 10. The Group expresses its support for projects, such as the pilot project that facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in the WGB sessions in 2023. The Group is convinced that such participation will greatly contribute to capacity building in our countries.

- 11. As part of its integrated capacity building activities, the Group calls on the Commission to continue offering States Signatories, in particular developing States, a wide range of training courses, workshops as well as hardware and software for NDCs aimed at strengthening capacities in areas relevant to the Treaty. Capacity building activities should continue to include all these elements that enable developing countries to access and analyze IMS data and International Data Centre (IDC) products.
- 12. Cognizant of the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and because of the technical and substantive nature of the issues under the agenda of the work of this technical Working Group of the 60th session of WGB, and due to the lack of ability of hybrid meetings to induce enough interactions between delegations, the Group suggests that the Agenda of this session of the WGB, including the Task Leader discussions, other informal technical consultations and expert group meetings be streamlined to cover the most salient and must-do items.
- 13. The Group stresses the importance of working on strengthening and reinforcing capacity building activities in parallel with the preparation of the verification regime. It is important to minimize the knowledge gap that may face developing states with regards to the technologies of the verification regime. In this regard, the Group highlights the need to dedicate more resources to enable States Signatories to host capacity-building activities including regional workshops, which also reinforces the principle of multilingualism and that could lead to cost saving for the CTBTO.
- 14. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and would like to emphasize the contribution of youth in promoting peace and security. The Group expresses its support for the mentoring programme for early career women in STEM coming from geographical regions which are under-represented in CTBTO staff. The Group reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies, particularly when it comes to capacity-building activities. In this regard, we encourage Working Group B to contribute to improving such representation among its officers in accordance with the above-mentioned principles.
- 15. The Group also recalls the guidelines contained within document CTBT/PTS-INF.1635 and encourages the PTS to coordinate with the other Secretariats of the Vienna based International Organizations (VBOs), to ensure that major meetings do not coincide, as well as to avoid an overlap, to the extent possible, with major sessions of the VBOs and any major public holiday.

Mr. Chair,

16. Finally, the Group looks forward to continue working constructively with you, the Vice-Chairs and the Task Leaders in order to achieve a fruitful outcome of this session.

Thank you.



## Statement of the G-77 and China during the Sixty-Third Session of Working Group A, delivered by H.E. Mr. Dario Ernesto Chiru Ochoa, Permanent Representative of Panama 24–25 May 2023

#### Mr. Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China congratulates you, Ambassador Nguyen Trung Kien as Chair of Working Group A and would like to thank you for convening this meeting and assures you of its full support and cooperation.
- 2. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary Dr. Robert Floyd for his opening remarks. The Group takes note of the Executive Secretary's report on verification related activities for the period July to December 2022, the Annual Report 2022 and the report on non-verification related activities for the period from April-August 2022.
- 3. The Group would like also to extend its appreciation to the PTS for the timely issuance of documents for this session.

#### Mr. Chair,

4. The Group is pleased to note that since our last meeting, Solomon Islands, has ratified the CTBT, bringing the number of State Signatories to 186 and of ratifications to 177. The Group stresses the need for an early Entry Into Force of the CTBT and underlines the importance of all possible efforts to be made to achieve the universalization of the Treaty, with the ultimate goal to eliminate nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

- 5. Regarding agenda item 3, the Group takes note of the report of the Advisory Group at its 60<sup>th</sup> session and the recommendations contained therein (CTBT/AG-60/1). The Group appreciates the Advisory Group's efforts and expertise in providing necessary observations, conclusions and recommendations on issues related to the administrative, budgetary and financial matters.
- 6. The Group takes note of the Financial Statements of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for 2022 (CTBT/PTS/INF.1657) and the 2024-2025 Programme and Budget Proposals: Initial Draft, as contained in document CTBT/PTS/INF.1647. Moreover, the Group thanks the PTS and would like to present the following comments regarding proposals, financial and budgetary decision:
- (a) The Group takes note of the document 2024-2025 Programme and Budget Proposals: Initial Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1647) in which it is indicated that the total 2024 Budget at estimated

2024 prices is \$134.19 in notional US\$ equivalent value, with an overall weighted average price adjustment of 4.3%. The Group notes as well that most of the 2024 Budget is allocated to verification activities (80.3%);

- (b) While appreciating the efforts made by the PTS while proposing the 2024 2025 Programme and Budget Proposal, as contained in the initial draft, the Group believes that there is a need for the PTS to identify further savings and efficiencies when elaborating the new revised draft budget. The difficult global macroeconomic circumstances have had a substantial impact on developing states, adding to the pertinent financial burdens and posing new challenges in this regard. Accordingly, we look forward to attainable additional efforts by the PTS to revise the proposed price adjustment (4.3%) and identifying means to ensure that financial resources are put to best use.
- (c) While appreciating the efforts made by the PTS, which are aimed at identifying and implementing measures to increase efficiency and savings to the extent possible, the Group reiterates the importance of ensuring that any savings do not jeopardize the effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities, nor affects the quality of these capacity building activities which aim at increasing the capabilities of States Signatories to participate in the verification regime. Therefore, the Group reiterates its position that capacity building activities should be funded in a sufficient manner through the Regular Budget. The Group requests the PTS to continue providing information, documents and organizing briefings on this subject during intersessional periods;
- (d) The Group strongly underlines the importance of promoting a balanced approach and appropriate allocation of resources among the three dimensions of the verification regime namely the International Monitoring System, the International Data Centre and On-Site Inspection;
- (e) The Group takes note of the decision on the carry forward of the Capital Investment Fund (CIF) and Multiyear Funds unspent balances of 31 December 2022 to the financial period 2023, as soon as they are audited and approved;
- (f) Since the plan of exercises for the years 2019-2021 was not carried out as foreseen in the "On-Site Inspection Exercise Plan for 2016-2020" due to the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group is of the view that the Secretariat should continue convening necessary Expert Meetings during 2023 to define the projects and elaborate the exercise plan based on challenging scenarios to be held in the future, in preparation for the integrated field exercise (IFE) 2025;
- (g) The Group requests the PTS to further develop the OSI e-Library, based on the lessons learned from exercises, in addition to providing access to the OSI e-library to the authorized experts from States Signatories;
- (h) The Group notes the progress with regards to making a large proportion of the training modules available in all United Nations official languages. The Group reiterates the importance of the allocation of resources for a project-based action plan that includes regional and multilingual

dimensions, as well as assessment mechanisms, as was previously requested by the Working Group (B) of the Preparatory Commission at its 52<sup>nd</sup> Session (CTBT/PC- 52/WGB/1).

- 7. The Group expresses its concern that the implementation rate of the Capacity Building Fund remains low. In this regard, the Group calls on the PTS to implement necessary measures to rectify this anomaly and bring capacity building activities to required levels. Furthermore, the Group is looking forward to the report of the quality assessment of training provided as well as measures that will be undertaken to support the participation of developing countries in virtual training programmes. The Group would also like to highlight that those activities, that are already approved and budgeted but were not carried out should be rescheduled as soon as possible.
- 8. The Group looks forward to the Science and Technology Conference which will be held in a hybrid format between 19 and 23 June 2023, which provides an opportunity for scientists, including those from developing countries, to share experiences and knowledge. The Group also looks forward to the convening of the Article XIV conference which is to be held in New York on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023.

Mr. Chair,

- 9. The Group takes note of the documents Equal Employment Opportunities Women in the Provisional Technical Secretariat (CTBT/PTS/INF.1658) and Human Resources Management Report (CTBT/PTS/INF.1654). In this regard, the Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and would like to emphasize the contribution of youth in promoting peace and security. The Group reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom, its subsidiary bodies, particularly when it comes to the Staff of the Organization, especially, at the Professional and higher levels, as important considerations in the recruitment process. The Group remains seriously concerned with the low level of representation of developing countries in the PTS and requests the PTS to make all necessary efforts to bring geographical representation to equitable levels.
- 10. The Group recognizes the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, including the achievement of gender balance at the director level of the PTS and encourages to continue improving gender representation at Professional level which remains at 40%. The Group requests the PTS to make further efforts to achieve gender balance among the staff of the organization at all levels of responsibility. In this regard, we would like to propose the PTS to use new and existing tools to encourage the participation of young female professionals in the PTS.
- 11. The Group looks forward to a constructive deliberation and timely conclusion of the work of this Working Group.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



### Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Preparatory Commission by H.E. Mohamed Elmolla, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Egypt, 12 – 14 June 2023

Mr. Chair,

- 1. The Group is pleased to see you, Ambassador Benno Laggner, chairing the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom). The Group takes this opportunity to express its full support and cooperation to your chairmanship.
- 2. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary for his opening remarks, and takes note of his reports and expresses its appreciation to the Provisional Technical Secretariat for preparing documents and making them available for this session in a timely manner.

- 3. The Group is pleased to note that since our last meeting, Solomon Islands, has ratified the CTBT, bringing the number of State Signatories to 186 and of Ratifiers to 177. In this regard, the Group stresses the need for an early Entry Into Force of the CTBT and underlines the importance of all possible efforts to be made to achieve the universalization of the Treaty, with the ultimate goal to eliminate nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
- 4. In this regard, the Group expresses its appreciation to the Co-Presidents of the 11<sup>th</sup> session of Art. XIV Conference, South Africa and Italy, and looks forward to the convening of the 12<sup>th</sup> session to be held in New York on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023 under the Co-Presidency of Panama and Norway, to whom the Group expresses its full support.
- 5. In light of the upcoming 1st Session of the Preparatory Committee of the NPT Review Conference to be held in Vienna in 2023, the Group would like to reiterate that the CTBT and the NPT are mutually reinforcing legal instruments of the international disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime. We reaffirm the central role of the NPT, as the Cornerstone of the Nuclear disarmament and Non-Proliferation regime, and the envisaged role of the CTBT, in furthering nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation both vertical and horizontal.
- 6. The Group continues to express its concern on any possible planning and preparation for nuclear test explosions. Any nuclear tests explosion would not only break the global moratorium, but severely undermine the Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and international peace and security. The Group calls upon all States to observe nuclear test moratoria and to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to general, complete and irreversible nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control.

## Mr. Chair,

- 7. On Agenda item 3, the Group takes note of the report of Working Group A at the 63<sup>nd</sup> session thanks the Ambassador Nguyen Trung Kien of Viet Nam for presenting the report.
- 8. The Group would like to reiterate some points expressed during the last Working Group A session. In this regard:
- (a) While appreciating the efforts made by the PTS in the 2024 2025 Programme and Budget Proposal, as contained in the initial draft, the Group believes that there is a need for the PTS to identify further savings and efficiencies when elaborating the new revised draft budget. The difficult global macroeconomic circumstances have had a substantial impact on developing states, adding to the pertinent financial burdens and posing new challenges in this regard. Accordingly, we look forward to attainable additional efforts by the PTS to revise the proposed price adjustment (4.3%) and identifying means to ensure that financial resources are put to best use.
- (b) In that regard, the Group reiterates the importance of ensuring that any savings do not jeopardize the effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities, nor affects the quality of these capacity building activities. The Group further requests the PTS to provide a detailed report on projected savings and efficiencies in preparation for the 2024-2025 biennium by the 64<sup>th</sup> WGA session.
- (c) The Group strongly underlines the importance of promoting a balanced approach and appropriate allocation of resources among the three dimensions of the verification regime namely the International Monitoring System, the International Data Centre and On-Site Inspection.
- (d) The Group encourages the PTS to utilize the remainder of the cash surplus from the budget of 2020 2021, in a balanced manner among the three pillars of the verification regime to the extent possible, in line with previous similar decisions, as well as the inclusion of an opt-out provision in line with previous decisions.
- (e) The Group notes the progress with regards to making a large proportion of the training modules available in all United Nations official languages. The Group reiterates the importance of the allocation of resources for a project-based action plan that includes regional and multilingual dimensions.

### Mr Chair,

- 9. On agenda item 4, the Group also takes note of the report of the Working Group B at its 60<sup>th</sup> Session and thanks Dr. Erlan Batyrbekov for presenting the report. In this regard:
- (a) The Group strongly emphasizes the importance it attaches to capacity-building and training and to the various activities carried out by the PTS in this field as a means of improving the ability of States Signatories, in particular developing countries, to fully participate in the Treaty's verification regime, as well as dedicating adequate financial resources for these activities.

- (b) The Group expresses its support for initiatives, such as the Technical Experts Support Program (TESP), that facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in the WGB sessions, as well as the National Data Centers for All (NDCs4All) Initiative. The Group is convinced that such participation will greatly contribute to capacity-building in our countries and to achieving wider participation of all States Signatories in the decision-making process and ownership of the Commission.
- (c) Reaffirming the provisions of the Establishing Resolution and the independent nature of the PrepCom, the Group would like to reaffirm that any activities related to the funding, maintenance, and provisional operation of the IMS stations must respect the mandate of the PTS, and any related action or decision by the PrepCom, should fully respect the purposes and principles of the United Nations, including those on the territorial integrity of the States. In view of this, the Group highlights the importance to engage in construction, maintenance and/or relocation of IMS facilities fully in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.
- 10. On agenda item 5, the Group takes note of the report of the Advisory Group at its 60<sup>th</sup> session and the recommendations contained therein and thanks Ms. Rashmi RAJYAGURU for presenting the report. The Group appreciates the Advisory Group's efforts and expertise in providing necessary observations, conclusions and recommendations on issues related to the administrative, budgetary and financial matters.

# Mr Chair,

- 11. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and would like to emphasize the contribution of youth in promoting peace and security.
- 12. The Group remains seriously concerned with the low level of representation of developing countries in the PTS and requests the PTS to make all necessary efforts to bring geographical representation to equitable levels. In this regard, the Group recognizes the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, including the achievement of gender balance at the director level of the PTS and encourages to continue improving gender representation at Professional level which remains at 40%. The Group requests the PTS to make further efforts to achieve gender balance among the staff of the organization at all levels of responsibility. In this regard, we would like to propose the PTS to use new and existing tools to encourage the participation of young female professionals in the PTS.
- 13. The Group emphasizes the importance of promoting multilingualism in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies as well as in the PTS. The Group looks forward to receiving an update on this subject in this session and a written progress report in future sessions.
- 14. Recognizing the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, the Group affirms the paramount importance of youth participation in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies, as well as in the PTS activities.

- 15. The Group looks forward to the Science and Technology Conference which will be held in a hybrid format between 19 and 23 June 2023, which provides an opportunity for scientists, civil society, academia and other stakeholders, including those from developing countries, to share experiences and knowledge.
- 16. The Group also recalls the guidelines contained within document CTBT/PTS-INF.1635 and encourages the PTS to coordinate with the other Secretariats of the Vienna based International Organizations (VBOs), to ensure that major meetings do not coincide, as well as to avoid an overlap, to the extent possible, with major sessions of the VBOs and any major public holiday.
- 17. The Group looks forward to finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, as a matter of priority at the next in person session of the PrepCom. The Group is confident that the PTS will continue to act in accordance with its mandate until this issue is finalized.
- 18. Finally, the Group of 77 and China looks forward to a constructive deliberation and timely conclusion of the work of this Session of the Preparatory Commission.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



# G-77 And China Statement During The 61st Session Of Working Group B, 21 August – 1 September 2023, Delivered By H.E. Mr. Bharat Kumar Regmi, Permanent Representative Of Nepal

Mr. Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Dr. Erlan Batyrbekov, conducting our work in this 61st Session of Working Group B together with the Vice-Chairs and Task Leaders. Additionally, the Group would like to congratulate Ms. Tebogo Pule of South Africa on her appointment as Vice-Chair of Working Group B and assure you of its full cooperation.
- 2. We would also like to thank Dr. Robert Floyd, the Executive Secretary, for his opening remarks and take note of his report on verification related activities for the period from January to June 2023. The Group also takes note of the documents prepared for this session by the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) and appreciates the PTS efforts in making them available. The Group also considers that States Signatory would benefit from technical briefings on the reports submitted to policy-making organs.

Mr. Chair,

- 3. The Group reiterates its full support for the CTBT and stresses the need for an early Entry into Force of the Treaty and its universalization, with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
- 4. The Group takes note of the statement of the Executive Secretary at the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Preparatory Committee of the 11th NPT Review Conference in Vienna. The Group also takes note of the preliminary report of the Science and Technology Conference Snt2023 and looks forward for the designed version. The Group notes that the Conference is an effective platform for an exchange of knowledge and ideas between the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO and the broader scientific community.
- 5. The Group reiterates its principled position on the importance of sustaining a balanced approach, including in allocating resources and time, among the three Major Programmes of the verification regime, namely the International Monitoring System (IMS), the International Data Centre (IDC) and On-Site Inspection (OSI). To this end, it calls once more on the PTS to seek the necessary efficiencies in the process, to ensure that the verification regime of the Treaty, upon Entry into Force, is balanced, coherent, and robust while furthering its efficiency.

Mr. Chair,

- 6. On specific verification related activities conducted by the PTS, as contained in the Executive Secretary's report, the Group stresses the importance of the PTS conforming with its mandate and would like to make the following remarks:
- a) The Group notes that the data availability of certified IMS stations remained high and automated products of the IDC met the timeliness requirements. The Group further notes the efforts of the PTS in identifying challenges that led to a slight decline in unauthenticated data of auxiliary seismic stations and looks forward to implementation of measures to remedy this challenge.
- b) Regarding the IMS, the Group takes note of the activities undertaken by the PTS during the reporting period, in particular the progress achieved towards the installations and certification of remaining Stations in developing countries, which illustrates the strong political commitment and material contributions of developing countries to the work of this Organization. The Group further takes note that during the reporting period, the total number of installed stations and certified stations remain at 300 (93.5%) and 305 (90.5%) respectively.
- c) On the management of life-cycle costs, including post-certification activity (PCA) contracts for certified IMS stations, the Group takes note of the continuous efforts by the PTS to standardize the services provided under PCA contracts and reiterates its call on all States Signatories to cooperate with the PTS in a joint effort to lower life cycle costs, including those related to PCA.
- d) Reaffirming the provisions of the Establishing Resolution and the independent nature of the PrepCom, the Group would like to reaffirm that any activities related to the funding, maintenance, and provisional operation of the IMS stations must respect the mandate of the PTS, and any related action or decision by the PrepCom, should fully respect the purposes and principles of the United Nations, including those on the territorial integrity of the States. In view of this, the Group highlights the importance to engage in construction, maintenance and/or relocation of IMS facilities fully in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.
- e) The Group looks forward to finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, as a matter of priority at the next in person session of the PrepCom. In this connection, the Group appreciates the work carried out by the previous Co-facilitators Ambassador Molekane and Ambassador Laggner, as per the mandate outlined by the PrepCom, in this regard. The Group looks forward to the resumption of the consultations to finalize direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization and recognize that the PTS has reaffirmed that it continues to observe the decision of the Commission that no campaign will be initiated in the future without guidance.
- f) Regarding the International Data Center Progressive Commissioning, the Group would like to emphasize the importance of continued involvement of experts in conducting the experiments, including the participation of experts from developing countries. The Group looks forward to further briefings on the progressive commissioning of the IMS and the IDC, the validation and acceptance test plan and the experiments conducted and planned by the PTS, noting that the milestones for progressive commission are not time bound and are requirement-based.

- g) The Group looks forward to the implementation of the OSI programme of work 2022-2023, the development of the next OSI training plan, and the OSI exercise plan 2022-2025.
- h) On the Radionuclide Monitoring System, the Group takes note of the continued work on the completion of ongoing installation and certification projects and the implementation of major upgrade and revalidation projects, as well as the maintenance of stations, which is carried out with Signatory States.

### Mr. Chair.

- 7. The Group would like to highlight the importance of capacity building activities, especially through technical trainings, workshops and capacity building courses, and expresses its appreciation for the PTS's efforts to continue providing and expanding capacity-building activities, through organizing online workshops and trainings. We reaffirm the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance to, inter alia, ensure that all States Signatories, in particular developing countries, have the capacity to effectively participate in the verification regime of the Treaty, and implement obtained knowledge and capacities at the national, regional and international levels.
- 8. The Group expresses its support for projects, such as the Technical Experts Support Programme (TESP) that facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries in the WGB sessions. The Group is convinced that such participation will greatly contribute to capacity building in our countries.
- 9. As part of its integrated capacity building activities, the Group calls on the Commission to continue offering States Signatories, in particular developing States, a wide range of training courses, workshops as well as hardware and software for NDCs aimed at strengthening capacities in areas relevant to the Treaty. Capacity building activities should continue to include all these elements that enable developing countries to access and analyse IMS data and International Data Centre (IDC) products.
- 10. The Group also reiterates that WGB report for its 61st session must be procedural, focusing on business continuity, and duly considered by technical experts from States Signatories.
- 11. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution and gender balance and reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies, particularly when it comes to capacity-building activities. In this regard, we encourage Working Group B to contribute to improving such representation among its officers in accordance with the abovementioned principles.

Mr. Chair,

12. Finally, the Group looks forward to continue working constructively with you, the Vice-Chairs and the Task Leaders in order to achieve a fruitful outcome of this session.

Thank you.



# Statement of the G-77 and China during the Sixty-Fourth Session of Working Group A delivered by H.E. Mr. Mohamed Hamdy ELMOLLA, Permanent Representative of Egypt 16–18 October 2023

Mr. Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank you, Ambassador Nguyen Trung Kien, for chairing this meeting and assures you of its full support and cooperation. The Group wishes to thank the Chair for all his efforts and exemplary leadership of Working Group A from August 2022 until December 2023.
- 2. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary Dr. Robert Floyd for his opening remarks. The Group takes note of the Executive Secretary's report on non-verification related activities for the period from April-August 2023.
- 3. The Group would like also to extend its appreciation to the PTS for the timely issuance of documents for this session.

Mr. Chair,

4. The Group is pleased to note that since our last meeting, Sri Lanka, has ratified and Somalia has signed the Treaty, bringing the number of State Signatories to 187 and of ratifications to 178. The Group stresses the need for an early Entry Into Force of the CTBT and underlines the importance of all possible efforts to be made to achieve the universalization of the Treaty, with the ultimate goal to eliminate nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. In this regard, the Group welcomes the convening of the thirteenth Art XIV Conference on facilitating the entry into force of the Treaty which took place in New York on 22 September 2023 and takes note of the adoption of the final Declaration of the Conference. The Group also appreciates the efforts exerted by States in this regard, and commends the efforts undertaken by Norway and Panama as Co-Presidents and thanks the PTS for organizing this event.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Group takes note of the Financial Statements of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization for 2023 and the 2024-2025 Programme and Budget Proposals: Final Draft, as contained in document CTBT/PTS/INF.1647/Rev.1. We look forward to continuing the efforts by the PTS to maintain a minimal as possible price adjustment and identifying means to ensure that financial resources are put to best use, taking into account a zero percent real growth policy in the budget and would like to present the following comments:

- (a) The Group takes note of the document 2024-2025 Programme and Budget Proposals: Final Draft (CTBT/PTS/INF.1647/Rev.1) in which it is indicated that the total 2024 Budget at estimated 2024 prices is \$133.72 in notional US\$ equivalent value, with an overall weighted average price adjustment of 4.2%. The Group notes that most of the 2024 Budget is allocated to verification activities (80.3%);
- (b) While appreciating the efforts made by the PTS in the 2024 2025 Programme and Budget Proposal, as contained in the final draft, the Group believes that there is a need for the PTS to identify further savings and efficiencies when elaborating future budgets. The difficult global macroeconomic circumstances have had a substantial negative impact on States Signatories, adding to the pertinent financial burdens and posing new challenges particularly for developing countries;
- (c) Notwithstanding the abovementioned, the Group reiterates the importance of ensuring that any savings neither jeopardize the effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities, which are aimed at increasing the capabilities of States Signatories to participate in the verification regime nor affects its quality Therefore, the Group reiterates its position that capacity building activities should be funded in a sufficient, predictable and sustainable manner through the Regular Budget. The Group requests the PTS to continue providing information, documents and organizing briefings on this subject inter-sessionally;
- (d) The Group strongly underlines the importance of promoting a balanced approach and appropriate allocation of resources among the three dimensions of the verification regime namely the International Monitoring System, the International Data Centre and On-Site Inspection;
- (e) The Group takes note of the draft decision on the carry forward of the Capital Investment Fund (CIF) and Multiyear Funds unspent balances backed by cash as of 31 December 2023 to the financial period 2024, as soon as the corresponding amounts are final and audited;
- (f) The Group is of the view that the Secretariat should continue convening necessary Expert Meetings to define the projects and elaborate the exercise plan based on challenging scenarios to be held in the future, in preparation for the integrated field exercise (IFE) 2025;
- (g) The Group requests the PTS to further develop the OSI e-Library, based on the lessons learned from exercises, in addition to providing access to the OSI e-library to the authorized experts from States Signatories;
- (h) The Group notes the progress with regards to making a large proportion of the training modules available in all United Nations official languages. The Group reiterates the importance of the allocation of resources for a project-based action plan that includes regional and multilingual dimensions, as well as assessment mechanisms, as was previously requested by the Working Group (B) of the Preparatory Commission at its 52<sup>nd</sup> Session (CTBT/PC- 52/WGB/1).
- (i) The Group notes the efforts of the PTS providing records of the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, in all languages, on the ECS.

- 6. The Group takes note of the information paper outlining the proposal for the use of the 2020-2021 cash surplus contained in document (CTBT/PTS/INF.1675), including in addressing the unfunded requirements of the 2024-2025 programme and budget. The Group urges the PTS to ensure adequate allotment of the cash surplus to capacity building related activities notably the Capacity Building Fund.
- 7. The Group expresses its concern that the implementation rate of the Capacity Building Fund remains low. In this regard, the Group calls on the PTS to implement necessary measures to rectify this anomaly and bring capacity building activities to required levels. Furthermore, the Group is looking forward to the report of the quality assessment of training provided as well as measures that will be undertaken to support the participation of developing countries in virtual training programmes. The Group would also like to highlight that those activities, that are already approved and budgeted but were not carried out should be rescheduled as soon as possible.

## Mr. Chair,

- 8. The Group takes note of the documents Equal Employment Opportunities Women in the Provisional Technical Secretariat (CTBT/PTS/INF.1658) and Human Resources Management Report (CTBT/PTS/INF.1654). In this regard, the Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and would like to emphasize the contribution of youth in promoting peace and security. The Group reiterates that these principles should be reflected in the PrepCom, its subsidiary bodies, particularly when it comes to the Staff of the Organization, especially, at the Professional and higher levels, as important considerations in the recruitment process. The Group remains seriously concerned with the low level of representation of developing countries in the PTS and requests the PTS to make all necessary efforts to bring geographical representation to equitable levels.
- 9. The Group recognizes the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, including the achievement of gender balance at the director level of the PTS and encourages to continue improving gender representation at Professional level which remains at 41%. The Group requests the PTS to make further efforts to achieve gender balance among the staff of the organization at all levels of responsibility. In this regard, we would like to propose the PTS to use new and existing tools to encourage the participation of young female professionals in the PTS.
- 10. The Group looks forward to a constructive deliberation, timely and consensual conclusion of the work of this Working Group and all other subsidiary bodies of the PrepCom.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



# Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Preparatory Commission 13 – 15 November 2023

# Mr. Chair,

- 1. The Group is pleased to see you, Ambassador Benno Laggner, chairing the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Preparatory Commission (PrepCom). The Group takes this opportunity to express its full support and cooperation to your chairmanship.
- 2. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary for his opening remarks and takes note of his reports and expresses its appreciation to the Provisional Technical Secretariat for preparing documents and making them available for this session in a timely manner.

# Mr. Chair,

- 3. The Group is pleased to note that since our last meeting, Sri Lanka, has ratified and Somalia has signed the Treaty, bringing the number of States Signatories to 187 and of Ratifiers to 178. In this regard, the Group stresses the need for an early Entry Into Force of the CTBT and underlines the importance of all possible efforts to be made to achieve the universalization of the Treaty, with the ultimate goal to eliminate nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
- 4. In this regard, the Group expresses its appreciation for the outcome of the 13th session of Art. XIV Conference, under the Co-Presidency of Panama and Norway, that took place in New York on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.
- 5. The Group would like to reiterate that the CTBT and the NPT are mutually reinforcing legal instruments of the international disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime. We reaffirm the central role of the NPT, as the cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and the envisaged role of the CTBT, in furthering nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation both vertical and horizontal.
- 6. The Group continues to express its serious concern on any possible planning and preparation for nuclear test explosions. Any nuclear tests explosion would not only break the global moratorium, but severely undermine the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and international peace and security. The Group calls upon all States to observe nuclear test moratoria and to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to general, complete and irreversible nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control. (Agreed ad ref)

# Mr. Chair,

- 7. On Agenda item 3, the Group takes note of the report of Working Group A at the 64<sup>th</sup> session and thanks Ambassador Nguyen Trung Kien of Viet Nam for presenting the report. The Group wishes to thank him for all his efforts and exemplary leadership of Working Group A from June 2022 until December 2023.
- 8. The Group would like to reiterate some points expressed during the last session of Working Group A. In this regard:
- (a) The Group takes note of the 2024 2025 Programme and Budget Proposal, as contained in document CTBT/PTS/INF.1647/Rev.1. The Group appreciates the efforts of the PTS in preparing this budget, cognizant of the view of the Group.
- (b) The Group reiterates its request for the PTS to maintain a zero percent real growth policy in preparing future budgets. Additionally, we request the PTS to maintain its efforts to keep a minimal price adjustment and identify means to ensure that financial resources are put to best use. In this regard, we note that the difficult global macroeconomic circumstances continues to have a substantial impact on developing states, adding to the pertinent financial burdens and posing new challenges.
- (c) In that regard, the Group reiterates the importance of ensuring that any savings do not jeopardize the effective strengthening of capacity building and training activities, nor affects the quality of these capacity building activities. The Group further requests the PTS to provide a detailed report on projected savings and efficiencies in preparation for future budgets.
- (d) The Group strongly underlines the importance of promoting a balanced approach and equitable allocation of resources among the three dimensions of the verification regime namely the International Monitoring System, the International Data Centre and On-Site Inspection.
- (e) The Group notes the proposals on the use of the 2020-2021 cash surplus and welcomes the revised draft decision which accorded increased allocation to capacity building activities. The Group further calls on the PTS to utilize the cash surplus from the budget of 2020 2021, in a balanced manner among the three pillars of the verification regime to the extent possible, as well as adequate allocation for capacity building in line with previous similar decisions, and the inclusion of an opt-out provision in line with previous decisions.
- (f) The Group reiterates that the cash surplus decision do not entail a position regarding the IMS sustainment strategy, yet to be concluded, and shall not constitute a precedent or additional financial burdens in preparing the next regular budget of the CTBTO, nor will it affect its baseline.
- (g) The Group notes the progress with regards to making a large proportion of the training modules available in all United Nations official languages. The Group reiterates the importance of the allocation of resources for a project-based action plan that includes regional and multilingual dimensions.

(h) The Group appreciates the efforts of the PTS in providing records of the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in all the official languages of the Commission on the ECS.

Mr Chair,

- 9. On agenda item 4, the Group also takes note of the report of the Working Group B at its 61<sup>st</sup> Session and thanks Dr. Erlan Batyrbekov for presenting the report. In this regard:
- (a) The Group strongly emphasizes the importance it attaches to capacity-building and training and to the various activities carried out by the PTS in this field as a means of improving the ability of States Signatories, in particular developing countries, to fully participate in the Treaty's verification regime, as well as dedicating adequate financial resources for these activities.
- (b) The Group expresses its support for initiatives, such as the Technical Experts Support Program (TESP) that facilitate the participation of experts from developing countries, as well as the National Data Center for All (NDCs4All), that allow access to secure signatory accounts among the three dimensions. The Group is convinced that such participation will greatly contribute to capacity-building in our countries and to achieving wider participation of all States Signatories in the decision-making process and ownership of the Commission.
- (c) Reaffirming the provisions of the Establishing Resolution and the independent nature of the PrepCom, the Group would like to reaffirm that any activities related to the funding, maintenance, and provisional operation of the IMS stations must respect the mandate of the PTS, and any related action or decision by the PrepCom, should fully respect the purposes and principles of the United Nations, including those on the territorial integrity of the States. In view of this, the Group highlights the importance to engage in construction, maintenance and/or relocation of IMS facilities fully in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.
- 10. On agenda item 5, the Group takes note of the report of the Advisory Group at its 61<sup>st</sup> session and the recommendations contained therein and thanks Ms. Rashmi RAJYAGURU for presenting the report. The Group appreciates the Advisory Group's efforts and expertise in providing necessary observations, conclusions and recommendations on issues related to the administrative, budgetary and financial matters.

Mr Chair,

- 11. The Group reaffirms its principles of equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and multilingualism and would like to emphasize the contribution of youth in promoting peace and security.
- 12. The Group remains seriously concerned with the low level of representation of developing countries in the PTS and requests the PTS to make all necessary efforts to bring geographical representation to equitable levels. In this regard, the Group recognizes the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, including the achievement of gender balance at the director level of the PTS and encourages to continue improving gender representation at Professional level which

remains at 41%. The Group requests the PTS to make further efforts to achieve gender balance among the staff of the organization at all levels of responsibility. In this regard, we would like to propose the PTS to use new and existing tools to encourage the participation of young female professionals in the PTS.

- 13. The Group emphasizes the importance of promoting multilingualism in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies as well as in the PTS. The Group looks forward to receiving an update on this subject in this session and a written progress report in future sessions.
- 14. Recognizing the important and positive contribution of youth in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, the Group affirms the paramount importance of youth participation in the PrepCom and its subsidiary bodies, as well as in the PTS activities.
- 15. The Group also recalls the guidelines contained within document CTBT/PTS-INF.1635 and encourages the PTS to coordinate with the other Secretariats of the Vienna based International Organizations (VBOs), to ensure that major meetings do not coincide, as well as to avoid an overlap, to the extent possible, with major sessions of the VBOs and any major public holiday.
- 16. The Group looks forward to finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, as a matter of priority at the next session of the PrepCom. The Group is confident that the PTS will continue to act in accordance with its mandate until this issue is finalized.
- 17. Finally, the Group of 77 and China looks forward to a constructive deliberation, consensual and timely conclusion of the work of this Session of the Preparatory Commission.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

# COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS)



# Statement of the G-77 and China during the Sixtieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 06-17 February 2023,

# delivered by H.E. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Pakistan

### AGENDA ITEM 3: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Mr. Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to express our gratitude to you, Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti of Paraguay, a member of the Group, for your Chairmanship of the 60th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS and assure you and the members of the bureau our full support this session. The Group would also like to extend its appreciation to the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Mr. Niklas Hedman and his dedicated staff at the Secretariat for the documentation and planning required for convening this meeting.

Mr. Chair,

- 2. The Group welcomes the increasing awareness of the potential, importance and impact that space activities have today, especially among the Group members. In this regard, the Group welcomes Guatemala and Uzbekistan as the new members of the Committee [1].
- 3. The Group would like to seize this opportunity to express its high appreciation for the work that COPUOS and its two Subcommittees have carried out, as the main UN forum in promoting international cooperation on the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space.
- 4. The Group is willing to engage in the discussions of this Subcommittee to support measures to enhance international cooperation and promote inclusivity and gender equality in space activities to ensure the benefits of space activities are available to all the peoples of the world. Considering the great importance the international community attaches to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Group is of the opinion that on-going and future activities in this area should contribute to sustainable development, particularly in developing countries.
- 5. The Group wishes to recall the established principles related to outer space activities, including the principle of exploration and use of outer space on the basis of equality and non-discrimination, the principle of the non-appropriation of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies, and the peaceful uses of outer space.



# Mr. Chair,

- 6. Several of the issues to be discussed during this session are of paramount importance to developing countries. The Group believes that in order to achieve the main objectives of this Subcommittee, it is important to concentrate our work in areas such as building and promotion of the technological capacities, transfer of technology favorable for developing countries, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and scientific technological research in developing countries within the framework of international cooperation. The only way we can ensure that outer space remains sustainable and can continue to deliver benefits to the whole of humankind is by working together through enhanced cooperation and collaboration.
- 7. The Group also considers it crucial that developing countries do not get left behind or are unfairly disadvantaged by space exploration efforts. The Group is of the view that space technology applications must translate into concrete benefits for developing countries. In order to achieve this goal, transfer of technology on favorable terms for developing countries, as well as associated capacity-building are of vital importance. In this vein, the Group strongly encourages States to strengthen international, multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, including by addressing challenges and obstacles, in particular those that hinder such cooperation, particularly, in developing countries.
- 8. The Group also urges States to refrain from promulgating, adopting and applying any unilateral economic, financial and trade measures and actions not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that could hamper or impede access to space and space activities, particularly, in developing countries. All outer space activities, including mega constellations and their related operations, should fully respect the UN Charter, international law and the principle of non-intervention.
- 9. The Group believes that COPUOS must remain the forum for enhancement of cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space. Therefore, the Group calls upon UNOOSA and the Member States for greater support to enhance both North-South and South-South cooperation to facilitate such transfer of technology among nations.
- 10. The Group would also like to reiterate its call upon OOSA and the Member States to make more opportunities available for greater academic linkages, long-term fellowships and further collaboration among national and regional laboratories, UN research centres, other national and international institutions on space matters and institutions in developing countries.

## Mr. Chair,

11. Recalling the constructive efforts made by all to achieve the adoption of the voluntary Guidelines for the Long Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities (LTS) during the 62nd session of COPUOS, it is important to bear in mind that this achievement was the outcome of a multi-dimensional compromise and therefore has a delicate balance. This delicate balance



should be preserved in implementing the workplan regarding this subject and should also take into consideration the priorities and concerns of all Member States, in particular developing countries. The Group and its Member States remain committed to contribute constructively to the meetings of the LTS Working Group and its work [2].

- 12. The Group underscores that the deployment of mega constellations, if not carried out sustainably and equitably, may pose a risk of congestion of Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which would be a significant disadvantage in the use and exploration of space by developing countries. Therefore, the principle of equitable access to outer space, and in particular in the LEO, needs to be observed more than ever.
- 13. Regarding space debris, the Group is of the view that the issue of preventing and mitigating its creation is of utmost importance. This topic should continue to be treated as a priority with the view to mitigate the creation of space debris and prevent collisions. The Group underscores the need for developing countries to have access to technologies and methodologies for the measurement, monitoring and characterization of space debris and other space objects.
- 14. The Group takes note of the relevant non-legally binding and voluntary measures such as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the LTS Guidelines, and invites advanced space-faring countries and other actors, especially those deploying mega-constellations, to pay due regard to their implementation.
- 15. The Group reiterates its commitment to the "Space2030" Agenda which is intended to be a "forward looking strategy for reaffirming and strengthening the contribution of space activities and space tools to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement, addressing long-term sustainable development concerns of humankind <sup>[4]</sup>." In this regard, the Group emphasises, once more, the need for capacity building to ensure that the required technical expertise is made available to Member States, especially developing countries, to support their implementation of the "Space2030" Agenda.
- 16. The Group welcomes the adoption of the resolution "Space and Global Health" by the UN General Assembly in its 77<sup>th</sup> session, in recognition of the contribution of space application for the prevention and control of diseases and global health issues.
- 17. The Group takes note and welcomes further discussions on the issue of Dark and Quiet Skies to enhance our understanding of the negative impact of light pollution and mega constellations on astronomy and the importance of maintaining pristine night skies for cultural and scientific purposes.

Mr. Chair,

18. We have indeed an adequate mechanism before us in COPUOS to address space related issues. We must recall that people worldwide count on the UN system to address global needs



particularly the needs of the developing countries. In a spirit of cooperation and consensus, it is the hope of the Group of 77 and China that we will be able to address these issues and to come up with solutions that will contribute to global prosperity through the promotion of enhanced international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

I thank you Mr. Chair.

- [1] A/RES/77/121 para 43
- [2] A/76/20 p. 54
- [3] A/RES/76/3
- [4] A/RES/76/3 para. 6



# G-77 AND CHINA STATEMENT DURING THE SIXTY-SECOND (62nd) SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, FROM 20 – 31 MARCH 2023, DELIVERED BY H.E. AFTAB AHMAD KHOKHER, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN

### AGENDA ITEM 3: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Madam Chairperson,

- 1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to assure you, Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa, a member of the Group, our full support on your Chairmanship of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS.
- 2. The Group further takes the opportunity to thank the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and Secretary of the Subcommittee, Mr. Niklas Hedman, and the Secretariat for the preparations and planning made for convening this meeting.

# Madam Chairperson,

- 3. The Group underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration of the outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and in conformity with applicable international law.
- 4. In line with this, the Group reiterates its strict adherence to the principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including those outlined in RES. GA.1962 (XVIII), RES.GA.1884 (XVIII), specifically:
  - a. Universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development as well as the equitable and rational use of the outer space for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind;
  - b. The principle of non-appropriation of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, which cannot be appropriated by any State, by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation or by any other means;
  - c. The non-militarization of outer space, which shall never be used for the placement and/or deployment of weapons of any kind, and as province of mankind, its strict use for the improvement of living conditions and peace among peoples;
  - d. International cooperation in the development of space activities especially those referred to in the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the benefit and in the interest of all States taking in particular account the needs on developing countries.
- 5. The Group reiterates that COPUOS, with its two Subcommittees, is the only UN forum to discuss comprehensively all matters related to the peaceful uses of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies. The Group recommends that there should be greater interaction between the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee in order to promote advancements in space law, so that it would be aligned with the major

scientific and technical advances in space activities. The Group is of the view that such coordination and synergies between the two Subcommittees can also promote greater understanding, acceptance and further implementation of the existing United Nations legal instruments.

- 6. The Group is of the view that all outer space activities, including mega-constellations and their related operations, should fully respect the UN Charter, international law and the principle of non-intervention. If mega-constellations or any satellite internet company wishes to operate into a country, these operations must respect the national laws and landing rights of that country and the relevant legal instruments of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- 7. The Group reaffirms the importance of preventing an arms race and the placement of weapons of any kind in outer space, and calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively and commit to preserving outer space as a peaceful environment. The Group believes that the sustainability of outer space activities both in the short and in the long-term requires the international community to ensure that no weapons are ever placed or used there.
- 8. The Group is of the view that the discussions of this Subcommittee should not lead to any measures, including norms, guidelines and standards that would limit access of developing and emerging space-faring countries to outer space. Accordingly, the Group believes that the international legal framework should be developed in a manner that addresses the concerns of all States.
- 9. Developing countries are increasingly engaging in space activities and in the discussions of COPUOS. While several Member States of this Group have achieved important milestones in space activities, others are only starting to include them into their national programs. This fact reaffirms our recognition of the potential, importance and impact of space activities and their relevance in the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, including through the "Space2030" Agenda and its Implementation Plan.
- 10. In this connection, it is imperative to increase efforts so that the benefits from outer space activities can be extended to all States. Furthermore, and in line with the enhancement of international cooperation in outer space activities, it is vital to promote the wider participation of developing countries through proactively offering assistance by advanced space faring nations. In this regard, the Group emphasizes the need for COPUOS to devote more efforts for capacity-building in space law and policy, and make the required expertise available to developing countries, facilitated by UNOOSA. The Group also underscores the importance of appropriate funding to enable the Office to provide valuable support for developing countries, including through UNOOSA's capacity-building programmes.
- 11. The definition and delimitation of outer space, geostationary orbit, capacity-building and application of international law to small satellites, and the meetings of the Working Group on space resources, inter alia are of paramount importance to the Group. It will engage in the discussions during this session of the Legal Subcommittee and will express its views under each specific agenda item, as appropriate.

# AGENDA ITEM 5: STATUS AND APPLICATION OF THE FIVE UNITED NATIONS TREATIES ON OUTER SPACE

Madam Chairperson,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China is of the view that a wide adherence to the United Nations treaties contributes to creating a safe, secure and sustainable atmosphere for the development of outer space activities and enhancing the effectiveness of COPUOS as the main body for discussing and negotiating international space law. We therefore note with appreciation the growing number of parties to the UN treaties on outer space and encourage those States that have not yet become parties to them to consider doing so.
- 2. Considering the growing number of space actors and the benefits derived from space science technology and their applications, the conduct of such activities by States and intergovernmental and non-governmental entities, continues to expand. In this regard, the Group is of the view that the conduct of space actors should conform to applicable international space law.

## AGENDA ITEM 6A: THE DEFINITION AND DELIMITATION OF OUTER SPACE

Madam Chairperson,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the documentation on this agenda item, particularly the contributions from Member States on their legal approaches to the definition and delimitation of outer space and suborbital flights, as well as the historical summary on the consideration of the question on the definition and delimitation of outer space.
- 2. The Group believes that the definition and delimitation of outer space is an important topic that should be kept on the agenda of this Subcommittee and that more work should be done in this direction because the legal regimes governing airspace and outer space are different.
- 3. The Group reiterates its commitment to continue the discussion on issues related to definition and delimitation of outer space and invites other countries to do as such in order to reach a consensus and in this regard we feel that the working group on Definition and Delimitation of Outer Space should continue its activities.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6B: GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT**

Madam Chairperson,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China firmly believes that geostationary orbit a limited natural resource clearly in danger of saturation shall be used rationally and shall be made available to all States, irrespective of their current technical capacities. That would provide States with the possibility of gaining access to the geostationary orbit under equitable conditions, bearing in mind, in particular, the needs and interests of developing countries and the geographical position of certain countries, and taking into account the processes of the ITU and relevant norms and decisions of the United Nations.
- 2. With the unprecedented rate at which developed countries are employing satellites to exploit the latest technology, there has been increasing awareness of the limitations of the geostationary orbit. Despite the relatively rapid development of certain developing countries in recent years, significant disparity between the ability of developed and developing countries to utilize satellite technology generally remains.
- 3. The Group underscores that the geostationary orbit shall not be subject to national appropriation, and that its utilization shall be governed by applicable international law and in accordance with the principle of non- appropriation of outer space, in order to ensure the guaranteed and equitable access to orbital positions of the geostationary orbit according to the needs of all countries, in particular developing countries and countries in certain geographical positions.
- 4. Bearing in mind that communications satellites are an indispensable tool in the efforts to promote the development of all countries, the Group is of the view that, in order to develop adequate mechanisms to ensure the equitable access to geostationary orbit, it is necessary to keep this issue on the agenda of this Subcommittee.

## AGENDA ITEM 8: CAPACITY-BUILDING IN SPACE LAW

Madam Chairperson,

- 1. Capacity-building, training and education in space law help to promote international development and cooperation in space activities, and assist in building national expertise and capacity in countries with emerging space capabilities. It also provides the means for a better understanding of the interdependent roles of science, technology and law in space activities.
- 2. In this connection, the Group believes that the successful implementation and application of the international legal framework governing space activities will depend on the understanding and acceptance, by policymakers and decision makers, of the legal framework governing the conduct of space activities. The presence of suitable professionals, in particular in developing countries, who are able to provide legal advice and disseminate information and knowledge relating to space law therefore relies on the availability of suitable opportunities for education in space law and policy.
- 3. The Group reiterates its view that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies is a unique common platform for strengthening the capacity of States, in particular for developing countries. In this line, the Group encourages the Office for Outer Space Affairs to conduct targeted capacity-building, education and training in space law and policy, modelled upon the UN-SPIDER programme.
- 4. The Group also underscores the importance of appropriate funding to enable the Office to provide valuable support for developing countries, including through UNOOSA's capacity building programmes.

# AGENDA ITEM 10: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON POTENTIAL LEGAL MODELS FOR ACTIVITIES IN EXPLORATION, EXPLOITATION AND UTILIZATION OF SPACE RESOURCES

Madam Chairperson,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China underscores the importance of this topic in connection with the future of international cooperation in space exploration, which the Group believes should not depart from the basic legal principles of the non-appropriation and equitable access to outer space, which is the common province of humankind.
- 2. In view of the present scenario, in which some countries have introduced national laws allowing the exploitation of celestial bodies for economic purposes, this discussion becomes urgent for the consideration of these legislations with regard to the International Space Law, in order to avoid gaps or contradictions in the legal framework in this area and to provide a clear understanding of the legal obligations of States in space exploration.
- 3. The Group welcomes the establishment of the Working Group on the general exchange of views on potential legal models for activities in exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources during the session of the Legal Subcommittee. The Group also welcomes the five-year Workplan and methods of work of the Working Group and looks forward to fruitful deliberations on this pertinent issue.
- 4. The Group believes that discussions should be as inclusive as possible for the benefit and in the interest of all humankind, taking into consideration the needs of developing countries. The Group is of the view that any approach for the exploration, exploitation and utilization of space resources should be equitable, constructive, collaborative, consensus-based, and most of all, does not leave behind or unfairly disadvantage developing countries. The Group also believes that in order to be inclusive and transparent, these discussions should take place within formal sessions, which should be allotted sufficient time, with interpretation services in all official UN languages.
- 5. The Group is of the view that in light of the increasing participation and the evolving potential of the private sector in space activities, the negotiation of a possible international legally binding instrument that clearly defines and guides commercial activities in outer space could play an important role in expanding the use of outer space and stimulate space activities for the benefit of humanity. The Group considers that, besides the need for a broad debate about the implications of these activities, the developing countries shall not be excluded from the benefits of space exploration and their rights shall be taken into account in the discussion.

# AGENDA ITEM 11: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND VIEWS ON LEGAL MECHANISMS RELATING TO SPACE DEBRIS MITIGATION AND REMEDIATION MEASURES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Madam Chairperson,

- 1. The issue of space debris, its proliferation and challenges posed by its removal, are a growing cause for concern in the space environment. The Group reiterates the need to take active measures to reduce pollution in the Earth's orbit and prevent accidental collisions of debris with space objects. The Group also expresses its concern regarding falling space debris, including during launch and uncontrolled re-entry, which pose a threat to human life, infrastructure and communities on Earth.
- 2. In this regard, the concept of mitigation and remediation of space debris in the form of removal of debris appear to be viable methods of preventing such collisions in space. The Group understands that there are some contentious issues before the LSC regarding this matter. The Group believes that it is important for all States to register all space objects launched into outer space. The Group also believes that no space object should be removed or eliminated without prior consent or authorization of the Registering State.
- 3. On the issue of the definition of space debris, the Group acknowledges that COPUOS is the proper forum for this discussion, and supports a consultative process involving all Member States of the Committee. With regard to the decongestion of outer space through remediation, the Group encourages Member States to adopt common but differentiated responsibilities, with the actors largely responsible for creating space debris the most involved in space debris removal activities, and that those actors should make available their scientific and legal expertise to developing countries.
- 4. With regard to falling space debris, the Group encourages launching states to provide advanced, proper, prompt and adequate notification to other states specially developing countries, located along the drop zones of falling space debris, as applicable, to ensure that they are sufficiently prepared to mitigate and respond to such incidents. It is equally important to strengthen the capacities of developing countries in detecting and responding to falling space debris.
- 5. Pending the adoption of legal mechanisms related to space debris mitigation and remediation, the Group takes note of the relevant non-legally binding and voluntary measures such as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, and invites advanced space-faring countries and other actors, especially those deploying mega-constellations, to pay due regard to their application. The Group further underscores the importance of strengthening the capacity of developing countries for the voluntary implementation of these measures.

# AGENDA ITEM 12: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NONLEGALLY BINDING UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENTS ON OUTER SPACE

Madam Chairperson,

- The Group of 77 and China underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration 1. of the outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and in conformity with applicable international law. With regard to information exchange, the Group encourages the States launching objects into orbit, in accordance with their commitments under GA Resolutions 1721 (XVI) of 1961, 1721 B and 1962 (XVIII), Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States and the Exploration and Use of Outer Space of 1963, to furnish information to COPUOS through the UN Secretary General, who is also requested to maintain a public registry, and consider establishing a national registry for the purpose of information exchange on its space object(s), as appropriate.
- 2. With regard to the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space, adopted by the UN General Assembly<sup>1</sup>, the Group underscores the importance of upholding the principle of promoting the availability of remote sensing data on a nondiscriminatory basis, as this type of information is essential to the promotion of sustainable development in areas like agriculture, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change, and global health, and also promotes transparency and confidence among States.
- The Group welcomes the General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration on 3. International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries<sup>2</sup>. The Group believes that this instrument is important as it further promotes international cooperation in a bid to maximize the benefits in the utilization of space applications for all States and calls on all space-faring nations to contribute to promoting and fostering international cooperation on an equitable basis and to refrain from introducing unilateral restrictive measures hampering this cooperation. It also underscores that particular attention be given to the interests of developing countries and that the Committee should be strengthened in its role as the main platform for the exchange of information in the field of international cooperation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A/RES/41/65, adopted by the 41st UNGA on 3 December 1986. 2 A/RES/51/122, adopted by the 51st UNGA on 4 February 1997.

# AGENDA ITEM 14: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW TO SMALL SATELLITE ACTIVITIES

Madam Chairperson,

- 1. Presently, a legal or regulatory definition of a small satellite does not exist and under the United Nations treaties, principles and resolutions relating to international space law, the term "space object" refers to satellites, launch vehicles and their component parts.
- 2. Considering the essential roles of space objects, regardless of their size, in the socio economic development of Member States, the Group is of the view that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Subcommittees should not create an ad-hoc legal regime or any other mechanisms, which might impose limitations on designing, building, launching and use of space objects by developing countries.
- 3. The Group also reiterates its previous statements regarding:
  - The importance of ensuring guaranteed and equitable access to orbital positions of the geostationary orbit according to the needs of all countries, in particular developing countries; and
  - That no space object should be removed or eliminated without prior consent or authorization of the Registering State.
  - Since debris generation goes against the interest of all States, satellite removal or elimination should be done in a responsible manner.



# G-77 AND CHINA STATEMENT ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE IN 2024 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FIVE-YEAR WORKPLAN AND METHODS OF WORK FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF SPACE RESOURCES ACTIVITIES

# DELIVERED BY H.E. AFTAB AHMAD KHOKHER, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN, ON 29 MARCH 2023

# Thank you Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China attaches high importance to the holding of an international conference in 2024 in Vienna in conjunction with the 63rd session of the LSC. The Group has keenly followed the discussions by all delegations on the topics and the various ideas which have been deliberated upon. The Group highlights the importance of inclusivity and full participation by all delegations, not limited by financial or other considerations which could affect the diversity of participation from delegations, especially from the Group, to ensure it is a multi-stakeholder, representative event in the truest sense.
- 2. The Group requests the Secretariat to make proper arrangements for interpretation in all UN official languages, including exploring the support of the Member States in a position to do so, to ensure linguistic inclusivity for all delegations. Furthermore, the Group calls to ensure that this International Conference reflects the diversity of the COPUOS membership, including developing countries and its geographical representation.
- 3. The Group thanks the delegations of Luxembourg and Belgium for graciously offering to host an event in the margins of the Space Resource Week, which will be held in Luxembourg in March or April 2024. The Group further welcomes the announcement by the Netherlands, Poland and South Korea on the allocation of extra budgetary resources to ensure wide participation in such event.
- 4. Finally, while noting the importance of the issue to all Member States, the Group looks forward to remain engaged to further decide during 2023 the modalities and agenda of the International Conference to contribute in making it a success.



# STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE SIXTY- SIXTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, 31 MAY - 09 JUNE 2023, DELIVERED BY H.E. AFTAB AHMAD KHOKHER, AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN

# AGENDA ITEM 4: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Mr. Chair,

- 1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to reiterate our full cooperation and support to you, Mr. Omran Sharaf, United Arab Emirates, a member of the Group, in the discharge of your responsibilities as Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).
- 2. The Group further takes the opportunity to thank the Acting Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Mr. Niklas Hedman, for his opening remarks, and the Secretariat for the preparations made for this session.
- 3. The Group welcomes Guatemala and Uzbekistan as new members of the Committee [1]. The steady growth of COPUOS in recent years is a clear sign of the international recognition of the unique role of COPUOS as the UN forum dedicated to discussing and promoting the peaceful uses of outer space. In this regard, the Group both welcomes and encourages the participation of observers in the Committee and its Subcommittees as this contributes to greater engagement with the activities of COPUOS. It is important that more Member States of the United Nations be welcomed as this contributes to the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space.
- 4. The Group underscores its firm conviction that the use and exploration of the outer space shall be carried out exclusively for peaceful purposes, with the view to realizing a shared vision for the future, for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and in conformity with the body of applicable international law.
- 5. Universal and equal access to outer space for all countries without discrimination, regardless of their level of scientific, technical and economic development as well as the equitable and rational use of the outer space for the benefit and in the interests of all humankind, the principle of non-appropriation

of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, by any means, international cooperation in the development of space activities especially those referred to in the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, taking in Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries, are among the most important principles that should govern the activities in outer Space.

- 6. The Group reaffirms the importance of preventing an arms race in outer space and placement of weapons of any kind in outer space and calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the peaceful use of outer space to prevent an arms race there and to refrain from placement of weapons of any kind in outer space and any other actions contrary to that objective. In this regard, the Group notes that transparency and confidence building measures could play a useful role. The Group believes that preservation of outer space for peaceful uses and its long-term sustainability requires the international community to ensure that no weapons will ever be placed there.
- 7. The Group is of the view that all outer space activities, including megaconstellations and their related operations, should fully respect the UN Charter, its principles including the principle of non-intervention and international law.
- 8. If mega-constellations or any satellite internet company wishes to operate into a country, these operations must respect the legal requirements, landing rights of that country and the relevant legal instruments of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- 9. Developing countries are increasingly engaged in space activities and actively participating in the work of the Committee. While several Member States of this Group have achieved important milestones in space activities, others are starting to develop their own space programmes and policies. This fact is a recognition of the potential, importance and benefit of space activities. The Group also considers it crucial that developing countries are not left behind or are unfairly treated in space exploration efforts.
- 10. In this connection, it is imperative to intensify the efforts to extend to all States the benefits derived from outer space activities with a view to promoting the contribution of peaceful uses of outer space to socio-economic development, including the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals bearing in mind the outcome of the UNISPACE +50 process such as the UNGA resolution 73/6 and the "Space2030" Agenda. In line with the enhancement of international cooperation in outer space activities, it is vital to promote a wider participation of developing countries through active and sustained assistance by advanced space faring nations and the Office of Outer Space Affairs free from conditionalities. To

this end, capacity building, technical assistance and transfer of technology are key factors in the expansion of the abilities of those working in the field, allowing them to gain expertise and knowledge from more advanced spacefaring nations. The Group also underscores the importance of appropriate funding, as well as mobilization of extrabudgetary resources to enable the Office to provide valuable support for developing countries, including through UNOOSA's capacity building programmes.

11. Finally, Mr. Chair, with regard to the appointment of the next Director for the Office of Outer Space Affairs, the Group is closely following the appointment process and would like to express its view that the new Director should continue to lead the Office in an inclusive, transparent, effective and professional manner, while paying special attention to the needs of developing countries. Representation from developing countries in the Office and regional balance should be guaranteed as well. We look forward to working closely with the next Director in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space for sustainable development, including in meeting the "Space 2030 Agenda" advancing international cooperation, strengthening the capacity of developing countries in utilizing space applications, and encouraging inclusivity and gender equality and balance in the space sector.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

[1] A/RES/77/121 para. 43

# AGENDA ITEM 6: REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ITS SIXTIETH SESSION

Mr. Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti of Paraguay for his exemplary chairpersonship of the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and would like to comment on some of the issues put forth during the session that we consider of utmost relevance for developing countries.
- 2. The unfavorable financial situation of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, has limited its capacity-building activities. UNOOSA is affected by a shortage of funds to support cooperation programmes. Nevertheless, the Group would like to note with appreciation activities carried out in 2022, under the Programme on Space Applications by UNOOSA in collaboration with Member States and other international organizations.
- 3. With regard to the technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and its utilization and applications, the Group would like to reiterate the fact that the geostationary orbit, a limited natural resource clearly in danger of saturation, needs to be used in a way that ensures countries have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries.
- 4. The issue of accumulation of space debris continues to be a cause for concern in space. The Group therefore is of the view that the potential hazards posed by the collision of debris with space objects and the consequences of the harmful contamination of outer space cannot be underestimated. It is also important that new space actors are not overburdened due to the consequences of historical activities of established space actors. The Group would also like to emphasize the challenges caused by placement of mega constellations in low Earth orbit, including those related to collision risks and sustainable use of orbit and frequencies, and believes addressing these challenges should be a priority in the work of COPUOS.
- 5. Pending the adoption of legal mechanisms related to space debris mitigation and remediation, the Group takes note of the relevant voluntary measures such as the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines and the Guidelines for the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, and encourages advanced space-faring countries and other actors, especially those deploying mega-constellations, to pay due regard to their application take actions to ensure their full implementation.

The Group further underscores the importance of strengthening the capacity of developing countries for the voluntary implementation of these measures.

Mr. Chair,

- 6. Space science and technology, and their applications are essential in effectively addressing current and future challenges to social and economic development and sustainability, such as natural disasters, food security, climate change and natural resource security. The Group notes in this regard that space activities are also crucial to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and the "Space2030" Agenda, in particular as part of efforts to support sustainable economic growth, improve quality of life and manage the global environment. It is therefore important to ensure that the Office is equipped with the necessary resources, including sufficient funding, to assist a greater number of countries in having access to the benefits of space science and technology and its applications in line with the spirit of the Outer Space Treaty and other applicable UN Treaties on Outer Space, as well as the "Space2030" Agenda.
- 7. The Group would like to highlight the importance of science and technology dissemination in bridging the space divide. The Group therefore calls upon the Committee and UNOOSA for greater support to the training programs of the regional centers affiliated to the United Nations, and to conduct wider exchange and cooperation among different regional centers, including through alliance of regional centers, with the aim of enhancing North-South and South-South cooperation to empower the development of technology among nations. The Group also calls upon UNOOSA and Member States to make available more opportunities for academic networking, long-term fellowships and collaboration with national and regional institutions in the field of outer space especially in developing countries.
- 8. The Group welcomes the adoption of the terms of reference, methods of work and workplan of the Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities, under the able leadership of Mr. Umamaheswaran R. from India, and looks forward to further engaging with the Working Group.
- 9. The Group welcomes the establishment of the Space and Global Health Platform and the Space and Global Health Network, upon the recommendation of the Working Group on Space and Global Health. The Group likewise appreciates the inclusion of "Space and global health" as a permanent agenda item of the STSC, in recognition of the role of space science and technology in various health and medical applications. In this regard, the Group welcomes the adoption of the resolution "Space and Global Health" by the United Nations General Assembly in its 77<sup>th</sup> session.

- 10. The Group expresses its support for the inclusion of the Protection of Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society on the agenda of the STSC and notes the proposal for the potential establishment of an expert group on the matter.
- 11. Finally, Mr. Chair, the Group welcomes the inclusion and recognition of space as a driver of sustainable development in the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which was convened in July 2022 under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council at its 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

# AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORT OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON ITS SIXTY-SECOND SESSION

Mr. Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to Ms. Nomfuneko Majaja of South Africa for her exemplary chairpersonship of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Legal Subcommittee, and would like to comment on some issues, which the Group deems of utmost relevance for developing countries.
- 2. The Group underscores once again that the definition and delimitation of outer space is a very important topic that should be kept on the agenda of this Subcommittee and that more work should be done in order to establish the legal regime applicable to airspace and outer space. In this regard, we commend all the efforts made by the Chair of the Working Group on Definition and delimitation of Outer Space and encourage all delegations to contribute to the discussion in a constructive manner.
- 3. Regarding the issue of geostationary orbit, the Group would like to reiterate that such a domain shall not be subject to national appropriation, by means of use, repeated use or occupation, or by any other means, and that its utilization is governed by applicable international law. Furthermore, we reiterate that this orbit needs to be used rationally, efficiently and economically, in conformity with the provision of the international space laws and relevant regulations, so that countries or groups of countries may have equitable access to those orbits and frequencies, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries.
- 4. The Group considers that capacity building in space law is a fundamental tool that should be enhanced through international cooperation. Therefore, the Group calls for a greater support by UNOOSA and Member States to foster both North-South and South-South cooperation to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise in the fields of international space law, space policy, space economy and space diplomacy.

Mr. Chair,

5. The Group believes that all efforts to promote international cooperation must be undertaken to maximize the benefits in the utilization of space applications for all States and calls on all space-faring nations to contribute to promoting and fostering international cooperation on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis. It also underscores that particular attention be given to the interests of developing countries and that the Committee should be strengthened in its role as the main

platform for the exchange of information in the field of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space.

- 6. Considering the essential roles of space objects, regardless of their size, in the socioeconomic development of the Member States, the Group is of the view that the Committee and its Subcommittees should not create an ad-hoc legal regime or any other mechanisms, which might impose limitations on designing, building, launching and using of space objects. The Group is of the view that in general, all international rights and obligations of the States with respect to satellites regardless of their perceived sizes are equally relevant for the conduct of space activities with the use of small satellites.
- 7. While making reference to our previous statement on agenda item 6 of the STSC regarding space debris, the Group encourages launching states to provide advanced, proper, prompt and adequate notification to other states specially developing countries, located along the drop zones of falling space debris, as applicable, to ensure that they are sufficiently prepared to mitigate and respond to such incidents. It is equally important to strengthen the capacities of developing countries in detecting and responding to falling space debris.
- 8. The Group also welcomes the work of the Working Group on Legal Aspects of Space Resource Activities under its detailed workplan and methods of work. The Group remains committed to engage in this discussions to help develop an equitable, inclusive, constructive, collaborative and consensus based approach for the utilization of space resources, in line with the principles enshrined in the Outer Space Treaty and other relevant UN treaties, especially the principle of non-appropriation of Outer Space, including the moon and other celestial bodies. In this regard, the Group of 77 and China attaches high importance to the holding of an International Conference in 2024 in Vienna in conjunction with the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the LSC and looks forward to remain engaged to further decide the modalities and agenda of the International Conference to contribute in making it a success.
- 9. The Group is of the view that in light of the increasing participation and the evolving potential of the private sector in space activities, the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument that clearly defines and guides commercial activities in outer space could play an important role in expanding the use of outer space and stimulate space activities for the benefit of humanity. The Group considers that, besides the need for a broad debate about the implications of these activities, the developing countries shall not be excluded from the benefits of space exploration and their rights shall be taken into account in the discussion.
- 10. The Group takes note with appreciation the Office's multi-year project to develop an online registration portal to facilitate the registration of space objects,

in view of the increasing number of submissions. The Group likewise supports discussions at the Working Group on the Status and Application of the Five United Nations Treaties on Outer Space on how to enhance registration practices, especially for large and or mega constellations.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

# UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL)



# G-77 Plenary Meeting on UNCITRAL matters

# Remarks Points by H.E. Aftab Ahmad Khokher, Chairperson of the G-77, during the briefing by Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary of UNCITRAL

Vienna, 5th May 2023

Excellencies, colleagues,

Thank you for devoting some of your most valuable time to join us this morning for this important briefing by the Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in preparation for the upcoming 56<sup>th</sup> session of UNCITRAL, which will once again take place here in Vienna from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of July.

Before anything else, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Ms. Anna Joubin-Bret, Secretary of UNCITRAL, for continuing the initiative to address the Member States of the G77 to interact with your Excellencies to enlighten us about the main topics on the agenda of the 56th Commission session of UNICITRAL and its future work.

In my capacity as the Chair of the Group of 77, it is my firm belief that productive dialogue and close interaction between the Group and the Vienna-based Organizations are key components for ensuring that the channels of communication remain open and information flows uninterrupted between all stakeholders. This way, we will be able to address vital issues as expeditiously as possible.

Mme Secretary,

Before giving you the floor, let me just share with you the main priorities and the position of G-77 regarding the upcoming session of the Commission.

Firstly, the Group underlines that the 56th session is going to carry on with the work undertaken during the 55th session and particularly looks forward to the updates concerning Working Group I (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), Working Group II (Dispute settlement) and Working Group III (Investor State Dispute Settlement).

The Group takes note with satisfaction of the progress made in UNCITRAL's work during the 55<sup>th</sup> session, particularly with respect to the adoption of the model law on identity management and trust services under Working Group IV (Electronic Commerce).

The Group likewise appreciates the conclusion of the work of Working Group VI and the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships, and we look forward to the opening for signature in Beijing this year.

In view of the foregoing, the Group acknowledges the good work being done by the Secretariat and urges Member States to support the Secretariat on the tasks assigned to it by the Commission, especially on the new work of WG IV on artificial intelligence and the new mandate of WG VI on Negotiable Multimodal Transport Documents.

The Group likewise looks forward to the discussion during the Colloquium on Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience (as mandated by Commission Resolution A/77/17, para. 216).

The Group recalls the successful launch of the UNCITRAL days in Africa in Accra, Ghana and the continuation of the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Day and UNCITRAL Latin America and Caribbean Day in 2022. We look forward to more of these initiatives that provide a platform for the sharing of ideas and also foster the inclusion of participants in the Work of the Commission whilst generating interest among academics, students and practitioners worldwide.

The Secretary of UNCITRAL will elaborate more on these, including the main topic of the upcoming session of UNCITRAL and methods of work, and share updates on their implementation. I am confident that this briefing will enhance the Group's collective understating of the Commission's work, as well as the challenges that lie ahead.

As I close my opening statement, may I now invite Madam Anna Joubin-Bret to make her presentation and then open the floor for comments and questions.

Thank you.