

Statements delivered in 2020 on behalf of the G-77 and China under the Chairmanship of:

H.E. Mr. Ganeson Sivagurunathan,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
Malaysia
(Feb. to Jun.)

H.E. Ms. Maria Cleofe Natividad, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Philippines (Jul. to Dec.)

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)



G-77 and China statement during the Briefing with Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO on 12 June 2020, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan, Permanent Representative of Malaysia

Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO Your Excellencies, Dear colleagues,

- 1. I would like to start by thanking Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO, for the excellent and constructive briefing he presented today regarding UNIDO's response to Covid-19 pandemic, and I would like also to express on behalf of the Group of G77 and China that this is a timely opportunity to listen to your excellency about those issues and to discuss with you the various points we would like to raise regarding this topic.
- 2. The efforts of UNIDO, and all other UN agencies and organizations, are certainly vital in this critical time as the world is struggling to overcome the horrendous implications of the spread of COVID-19.
- 3. As we have seen, the impact of this virus has been severe on all countries. However, developing and least developed countries including the most vulnerable and those who face specific challenges, are the ones that are expected to suffer the most, due to the known reasons related to the development challenges they face, and the limited resources and capacities they possess.
- 4. The Group of G-77 and China is very appreciative for the efforts exerted by UNIDO in this respect and we trust that these efforts will not diminish after dealing with the current initial stage of containing the short term impact of the pandemic, but rather will continue throughout the next stages of recovery and revitalization of the industrial activities in the medium and long terms.
- 5. It is important in this context to highlight that this pandemic does not only impose on us the duty to save our industries and the jobs available for our workers, (aside of course from the primary objective of saving lives), but also to handle well the new challenges imposed by the way we deal with the spread of COVID-19.
- 6. One of the most important areas where the developing and least developed countries will require particular assistance is how to dispose safely, and in an environmentally friendly manner, of the PPEs and other equipment that are mass

produced currently for both the public and the medical teams to prevent the spread of the disease.

- 7. Most of our countries will need supplementary assistance and support to deal with this matter, whether in terms of facilities or personnel, so that they will have the appropriate capacities to handle it
- 8. Additionally, we have another considerable challenge represented in the need to develop quickly the trade and industrial complementarities between the developing countries, considering that it is expected that the repercussions of COVID-19 will impact the supply and value chains across the world in a way that may affect the food supplies and the primary and essential products used in the various industries.
- 9. Therefore, the member countries of the G-77 and China are looking forward for an exceptional effort by UNIDO, and other UN agencies and organizations, in order to mitigate the impacts of the spread of COVID-19 and to assume the difficult role of trying to vitalize the connections between the developing countries so that they can support each other in these difficult times.

Mr. LI, dear colleagues,

- 10. In line with our reaffirmed commitment to United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. We encourage all States to work for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.
- 11. I do not want to take more time to examine the issues that are being discussed quite frequently. I just wanted to highlight a couple of points that I feel they represent additional important challenges, beside the other principal issues related to this topic.
- 12. Thank you again Director General, and all the colleagues in the Secretariat of UNIDO, for your efforts and for this briefing.



G-77 and China Statement during the UNIDO PBC 36th session, 29-30 September 2020, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Maria Cleofe Natividad, Permanent Representative of the Philippines

Mr. Chairman, [H.E. Ambassador Mr. J. Antonio Marcondes, Permanent Representative of Brazil]

- 1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to congratulate you as the Chairman of this current session and other members for their elections to the bureau of this session. I would like to thank the outgoing Chairman, H.E. Mr. Károly DÁN, Permanent Representative of Hungary and his bureau members for all their outstanding work and contributions at the previous session.
- 2. Taking into account the very difficult circumstances in times of the COVID-19 pandemic, I wish to thank the Secretariat for the timely issuance of documents and organization of various virtual/hybrid briefings to facilitate the deliberations of Member States on various issues of importance. The Group would like to address other agenda items during this session.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2019

Mr. Chairman,

- 1. The Group thanks the Director General for his introductory remarks and for the Annual Report for 2019 which offers an overview of the 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.
- 2. At the outset, the Group welcomes the success of the 18th session of UNIDO General Conference held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in November last year. The Abu Dhabi Declaration adopted at the Conference is a milestone document which outlines the way forward for UNIDO in playing a key role in realisation of the 2030 Development Agenda. The Declaration confirms the Organization's mandate of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID), in particular in aspects of poverty reduction and climate change mitigation, building upon grounds laid by the Lima Declaration of 2013.
- 3. The Group reaffirms the high importance it attaches to all 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 moving forward to a full implementation of the Organization's mandate, thereby advancing progress of developing countries and economies in transition on the path towards economic and social prosperity.

- 4. The Group commends the Organization for its technical assistance and capacity-building programmes provided to Member States, particularly developing countries and LDCs. Such efforts must continue with a view to strengthen partnership, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing among Member States and other stakeholders, including through South-South, North-South, and triangular cooperation.
- 5. The Group appreciates the Organization's and the Director General's active contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by participating in various activities throughout 2019, such as the SDG Summit and the Climate Action Summit. We are pleased to note the Organization's role in the promotion of low-emission climate-resilient practices in industrial sector has been included in the in-depth review of SDG13 (Climate action) implementation at the 2019 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
- 6. The Group notes with satisfaction that the amount of funding secured in the past year from external sources for projects and programmes to be implemented by UNIDO amounts to the unprecedentedly high figure of 586.6 million USD, of which 198.5 million USD has been mobilized and utilized in 2019. This record stands testament to UNIDO's relevance as key player among global development organizations.
- 7. With regard to the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP), the Group has followed the implementation of PCPs in Ethiopia, Peru, Senegal, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Rwanda, and Zambia, with great interest. We look forward to the expansion of PCP to other members of the Group, upon their request.
- 8. Last but not least, the Group welcomes significant progress in the implementation of the Medium-Term Programme Framework (MTPF) for 2018-2021 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.
- 9. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Annual Report of the Director General for 2019 as submitted in document IDB.48/2-PBC.36/2.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Agenda Item 4: Report of the External Auditor for 2019

Mr. Chairman,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China recognizes and takes note of the Report of the External Auditor on the accounts of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for the financial year starting from 1 January to 31 December 2019, as contained in Document IDB.48/3 PBC.36/3.
- 2. The Group, while acknowledging UNIDO's efforts to comply with the recommendations of the prior year's audit findings, has observed that there appears to be a slow-down in the rate of compliance compared to 2018: of the 63 recommendations in 2019, the Organization was able to

close 18 items, which represent 29 percent of the issues found, compared to the 41 percent closure in 2018; 37 items, or 59 percent, are undergoing implementation compared to 51 percent in 2018. Furthermore, while the percentage of items that have yet to be implemented remains at 13 percent, the actual number has doubled from four in 2018 to eight in 2019. The Group, therefore, strongly encourages UNIDO to address these recommendations to improve its operational effectiveness and efficiency.

- 3. The Group positively notes that assessed contributions for 2019 improved slightly from the previous year, standing at 68.36 million Euro, vis-à-vis 68.35 million Euro in 2018, as well as an increase in the rate of collection to 92.6 percent for the 2018-2019 biennium. However, the Group also notes that while the utilization rate increased to 96 percent in 2019 due to the conscious effort by UNIDO to increase utilization, the overall utilization rate for the biennium 2018-2019 continued to drop over time to 90.2 percent. Thus, it remains crucial for Member States to fulfill their financial obligations in full and on time for the Organization to deliver its operations to its full capacity, according to the needs and priorities of Member States.
- 4. The Group expresses deep concern over the continuing deficit incurred by UNIDO since the last audit year, which stands at 13.64 million Euros in 2019. With the increased contribution to the United Nations Development System reforms and the 13.25 million Euro uncollected voluntary contributions receivables at the end of 2019. It is crucial now, more than ever, for the Organization to strike a balance between its revenue and expenditures by continuing to increase the efficiency of its operations through innovative use of its available resources.
- 5. The Group likewise notes that while the Organization has not fully rebounded from the decline in its revenue in 2018, it was able to improve slightly from 236.94 million Euro in 2018 to 239.86 million Euro in 2019. The Group strongly encourages UNIDO to move along this path and to continue to find ways to further increase its income moving forward.
- 6. The Group acknowledges the initiative of the External Auditor to include in their review the Organization's Enterprise Risk Management, Fraud Risk Management and Procurement, with the view to adding value to the management and governance of UNIDO to strengthen its core mandate.
- 7. The Group continues to note that funding for After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) remains an area of concern as one of the long-term liabilities for the Organization, and takes cognizance of the recommendation of the External Auditors for UNIDO to come up with a time-bound plan to set up partial funding for ASHI comparable with other UN funding models. The Group notes the outcome of the Inter Agency Working Group on ASHI and looks forward to continuing the discussion in the Informal Working Group of the PBC.
- 8. The Group takes note of the findings of the External Auditor and expresses its support for the twenty-nine recommendations embodied in the report. The Group strongly encourages the Secretariat to implement the various measures identified by the External Auditor to further enhance the transparency and accountability in the Organization that will, in turn, increase the Organization's efficiency and effectiveness.

- 9. The Group recognizes the challenges that continue to lay ahead for UNIDO, particularly with regard the impact of the COVID-19 virus to both the organization and its Member States. Towards this end, the Group strongly encourages the Organization to carry on with its initiatives that aim to streamline, rationalize, capacitate, and improve UNIDO's management and operation.
- 10. Before closing this agenda item, the Group expresses its deep appreciation to Mr. Michael Aguinaldo and the Commission of Audit of the Republic of the Philippines for their exemplary contribution and consummate work as the External Auditor of UNIDO for the biennium 2018-2019. The Group also welcomes and looks forward to Mr. Aleksei Kudrin and the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation as the Organization's External Auditor for the biennium 2020-2021.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Chairman,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the report on the Financial Situation of the UNIDO as contained in document IDB.48/5-PBC.36/5. The Group expresses concern on the collection rate of 2020 assessed contributions compared to the rates in previous years, which were more appreciable.
- 2. The Group is pleased with the establishment of the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee and progresses made, which allows both Secretariat and Member States to continue to exchange views on possible measures to address the impact of decreased contributions on the operations of the Organization.
- 3. The Group continues to encourage Member States of timely payment of their contributions in full in order to maintain a healthy and stable financial outlook for the Organization even in face of the pandemic. A sufficient, assured and predictable funding is vital for UNIDO to effectively deliver its core mandate of SDGs 9 (Promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrial development), in safeguarding the environment in developing countries particularly LDCs.
- 4. The Group requests the Secretariat to inform Member States of the possible measures to address the outstanding arrears. The Group reiterates its stance and urges secretariat to intensify its efforts towards former members to settle their arrears including advances to the Working Capital Fund.
- 5. The Group wishes to thank and commend Member States who voluntarily relinquished their Unutilized Balances of appropriation to the Organization to finance the funding gap at the 18th Session of the General Conference in Abu Dhabi and appeals for more Member States to support in that regard. It also wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Donor Governments, the EU and other partners for their immense contributions.

6. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China supports the adoption of the draft decision on agenda item 5 as recommended by the 36th session of the Programme and Budget Committee

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Agenda Item 6: Report by the informal working group on Programme and Budget Committee related issues

Mr. Chairman,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China would like to reiterate its appreciation of the work undertaken by the Informal Working Group (IWG) on Programme and Budget Committee. Indeed, the IWG serves as a good platform for both Secretariat and Member States to explore possible recommendations on important issues. The Group believes that the IWG is a valuable platform for dialogue on how to take UNIDO forward and support its work, and that it has the potential to be expanded to a platform within the Organization for discussions on global issues concerning industrialization.
- 2. The Group acknowledges the work and discussion on relevant topics that include Facilitating the full and timely collection of assessed contributions and improving the financial situation of UNIDO, After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) and the results of the Full Cost Recovery (FCR), Technical Cooperation challenges, assessed contributions and the Working Capital Fund (WCF).
- 3. The Group looks forward to further discussions in the IWG about improving the timely and full collection of assessed contributions, considering the circumstances that may hinder the ability of Member States to meet their financial obligations.
- 4. The Group of 77 and China is particularly grateful for the dedication and leadership of the co-chairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Switzerland.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Agenda item 7: Mobilization of Financial Resources

Mr. Chairman,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the Director-General's report on mobilization of financial resources as contained in IDB.48/7- PBC.36/7.
- 2. The Group attaches great importance for the Organization to have a sufficient and predictable funding to enable UNIDO to fully and effectively deliver its core mandate and activities.
- 3. The Group encourages all donors to consider contributing programmable funds, specifically to enable UNIDO to respond rapidly to requests for assistance and develop and implement its programmatic activities in a prompt and coordinated manner.

- 4. The Group appeals to Member States to further consider contributing to UNIDO to enable the Organization to work with funding sources that require co-funding, either through contributing to the dedicated trust funds or by special purpose funding at country, regional or global level.
- 5. The Group welcomes the on-going efforts of the Secretariat to address the financial constraints of the Organization through the establishment of Partnership Trust Fund as well as the Special Account of Voluntary Contributions for Core Activities (SAVCCA) and the Major Capital Investment Fund (MCIF).
- 6. The Group therefore supports the adoption of the draft decision on this agenda item 7 with the above comments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Agenda Item 9: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa

Mr. Chairman,

- 1. The Group of G77 and China has taken note with appreciation of the Report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) and we have the following points to make:
- 2. The Group would like to see a further expansion of the Programme Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CPs) in the African continent and it believes that it is necessary that the Secretariat would indicate more clearly about the targeted African countries where it intends to expand its activities to, in comparison with the existing number. This expansion would certainly provide more support to the African countries that do not have at the moment CPs and are not included in the PCPs.
- 3. Furthermore, the Group would also highly appreciate if the Secretariat could provide more information about the application plans and the next steps for the recommendations resulting from the comprehensive overview of the programmes and projects that have been mapped using the data collection tool in the nearest time possible. Such plans and strategies are of the utmost importance and the Group would highly encourage the Secretariat of UNIDO to pursue this matter with the urgency it deserves.
- 4. The Group is convinced that the operationalization of the IDDA III Secretariat is of significant importance as its role in the implementation of the various strategies and policies related to Africa will be vital in the success of the plans connected with the IDDA III.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Agenda Item 11: UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Mr. Chairman,

1. The Group of 77 and China has taken note of the report of the Director General on UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and it highly appreciates the efforts exerted by the Director General and the Secretariat of UNIDO in this respect, especially that they have a tangible role in mitigating the negative impacts and repercussions of COVID-19 worldwide.

Mr. Chairman,

- 2. The Group is certainly looking forward to the continued efforts of UNIDO, and the other United Nations and international organizations and institutions, in assisting the countries that were affected the most by the impact of COVID-19 and is looking forward to receiving frequent reports about the progress of these efforts.
- 3. Additionally, the Group would like to encourage the Secretariat to intensify its efforts, in collaboration with other UN organizations and agencies, to make sure that the most vulnerable and affected countries by the virus are provided with the capacity and the opportunities to have a continued access to: the Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), which are needed for the sustained operation of their vital services and for the daily life activities; the means to dispose of the consumed medical items safely after usage; and the provision of additional equipment needed to deal with the various aspects of handling the medical issues related to COVID-19, including the means for the production and fair distribution of the expected vaccine of COVID-19.
- 4. Finally, the Group of 77 and China invites the Secretariat to expand its contacts with the International Financial Institutions, including those which belong to the private sector, in order to provide additional support, on an equal and fair manner, for its efforts aiming at mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on the Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, and to facilitate the recovery of the industrial sector, especially in the countries that were affected the most.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



G-77 and China Statement during the UNIDO IDB 48th session, 23-25 November 2020, delivered by H.E. Ambas sador Maria Cleofe Natividad, Permanent Representative of the Philippines

Mr. President, [H.E. Mr. Darmansjah DJUMALA, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Indonesia]

- 1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the IDB and other members for their elections to the bureau of this session. The Group is confident that you will steer the IDB with great skills and that this session will come to a successful and fruitful conclusion.
- 2. I would like to thank, as well, the former President of the 47th session, His Excellency Senén Florensa Palau of Spain, for his leadership during the previous session, and the members of his bureau for their outstanding work in continuing to move the process forward successfully.
- 3. The Group has listened with great interest to the statement of Mr. LI Yong, Director General of UNIDO and in this regard appreciates his efforts in leading this Organization. The Group would also like to thank the Secretariat for organizing this session.

Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2019

Mr. President,

- 1. The Group welcomes the Director General's Annual Report for 2019, which provides an overview of UNIDO's activities, achievements, as well as improvements made and challenges faced by the Organization during the past year.
- 2. The Group reaffirms high importance it attaches to all initiatives, activities, and programmes implemented or planned by the Organization during 2019, among them, the successful conclusion of the 18th General Conference and the adoption of the Abu Dhabi Declaration. We encourage the Director General and the Secretariat to continue moving forward to a full implementation of the Organization's mandate, thereby advancing progress of developing countries and economies in transition on the path towards economic and social prosperity. Technical assistance and capacity-building programmes are essential tools in achieving such goals in this regard.
- 3. The Group welcomes the remarkable increase in funding from external sources that the Organization secured for its projects and programmes in 2019, amounting to 586.6 million USD. This unprecedented amount reflects UNIDO's relevance as a key player among global development organizations.
- 4. The Group takes note with great interest the progress of the Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) currently being implemented in ten selected countries, all being members of the Group. We look forward to the expansion of the PCP to other members of the Group, upon their requests.
- 5. Finally, the Group welcomes the significant progress in the implementation of the Medium-Term Programme Framework (MTPF) for 2018-2021 and the Organization's continued efforts to promote transparency and accountability of its work by applying the integrated results and performance framework (IRPF) in the preparation of this report.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Agenda Item 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

Mr. President.

a) Report of the External Auditor for 2019

- 1. The Group of 77 and China acknowledges UNIDO's efforts to comply with the recommendations of the prior year's audit report. However, the Group expresses its concern at the slow-down in the rate of compliance as compared to 2018 and encourages the Organization to address the remaining eight recommendations to further improve its operational efficiency.
- 2. The Group notes slight improvement in assessed contributions for 2019 as well as an increase in the rate of collection for the 2018-2019 biennium. However, a shortfall still remains between the assessed contributions receivable and the actual collection. Therefore, it remains vital for Member States to fulfill their financial obligations on time so that UNIDO can complete its operations with optimum capacity.
- 3. The Group appreciates the initiative of the External Auditor to include in the review the Organization's Enterprise Risk Management, Fraud Risk Management and Procurement to add value to the management and governance of UNIDO for strengthening its core mandate.
- 4. The Group strongly encourages the Secretariat to implement the measures identified by the External Auditor to further enhance transparency and accountability in the Organization for the sake of increasing its efficiency and effectiveness.
- 5. The Group appreciates Mr. Michael Aguinaldo and the Commission of Audit of the Republic of the Philippines for their exemplary work as the External Auditor of UNIDO for the biennium 2018-2019. The Group also welcomes Mr. Aleksei Kudrin and the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation as the Organization's External Auditor for the biennium 2020-2021.

b) Financial situation of UNIDO, including unutilized balances of appropriations

Mr. President

- 1. The Group of 77 and China expresses its concern over the collection rate of 2020 assessed contributions compared to the rates in previous years.
- 2. The Group encourages Member States for timely payment of their contributions including advances to the Working Capital Fund and prior years' arrears, which are necessary for maintaining a healthy and stable financial outlook for the Organization. Accordingly, the Group urges the Secretariat to inform Member States of the possible measures to address the outstanding arrears.
- 3. The Group 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 ameliorate the financial situation of the Organization.
- 4. The Group commends the Member States that voluntarily relinquished their Unutilized Balances of appropriation to the Organization to finance the funding gap, and appeals for more Member States to support in that regard.
- 5. The Group also acknowledges the efforts of Donor Governments, the EU and other partners for their immense contributions.
- 6. The Group also acknowledges the contributions of Donor Governments, the EU and other partners in support of the important undertakings of the Organization.

c) Report by the Informal Working Group on Programme and Budget Committee related issues

Mr. President

- 1. The Group of 77 and China reiterates its appreciation of the work of the Informal Working Group (IWG) on Programme and Budget Committee. The Informal Working Group is a good platform for both Secretariat and Member States to exchange ideas and discuss recommendations on important issues.
- 2. The Group believes that the IWG is a valuable platform for dialogue among the Member States to take UNIDO forward and improve its work. It has the potential to expand its mandate for discussion on global issues pertaining to industrialization.
- 3. The Group appreciates the discussion in the IWG on important topics that include Facilitating the timely collection of assessed contributions, improving the financial situation of UNIDO, the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI), the results of the Full Cost Recovery (FCR), Technical Cooperation challenges, assessed contributions and the Working Capital Fund (WCF).
- 4. The Group commends the dedication and leadership of the co-chairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Switzerland.

d) Mobilization of financial resources

Mr. President

- 1. The Group of 77 and China attaches great importance to the sufficient and predictable funding that enables UNIDO to effectively deliver its core mandate and activities.
- 2. The Group encourages the Member States and the donors to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to UNIDO including for the recently created Partnership Trust Fund as well as the Special Account of Voluntary Contributions for Core Activities (SAVCCA) and the Major Capital Investment Fund (MCIF).
- 3. The Group also encourages the donors to consider contributing to the programmable funds supporting UNIDO to respond to requests from the Member States for assistance and to implement its programmatic activities promptly.
- 4. The Group appeals to Member States to contribute to UNIDO to increase the funding sources that require further co-funding, either through contributing to the dedicated trust funds or by special purpose funding at country, regional or global level.

Thank you Mr. President.

Agenda Item 6: UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Mr. President,

1. The Group of 77 and China has taken note of the report of the Director General on UNIDO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its update, and it highly appreciates the efforts exerted by the Director General and the Secretariat of UNIDO to mitigate the impact and the repercussions related to the spread of this virus.

Mr President,

2. The Group continues to affirm its support for UNIDO and other United Nations and international organizations and agencies, as well as other international and multilateral efforts, in assisting the most affected countries by the impact of COVID-19, and it is looking forward to getting acquainted with the plans of helping the developing countries in their recovery efforts

during the upcoming year (2021), especially in light of the encouraging news about the efficacy of more than one vaccine developed by the international pharmaceutical companies.

- 3. At the current stage and until we cross this challenging winter, the Group urges the Secretariat to double its efforts, in collaboration with other United Nations' organizations and agencies, to provide assistance in the production or procurement of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), and access to ventilators to the developing countries, which are needed for the sustained functioning of their economies. It is the conviction of the Group that although there is a light at the end of the tunnel, however, the crisis is still present and dangerous and the sustained efforts of all international actors and donors to support the developing countries in this critical juncture is still highly required and appreciated.
- 4. In view of the above, the Group invites the Secretariat to continue to expand its contacts with the international donors, whether governmental or non-governmental, to intensify their support for the developing countries in their efforts to overcome the impact of the spread of COVID-19, and to get across to the recovery stage with minimum loss of life and damages to their industrial sectors.
- 5. Finally, the Group of 77 and China is confident that UNIDO and other United Nations' Organizations and Agencies will work diligently to make sure that the manufacturing of the new vaccines of COVID-19 is carried out on the largest scale possible, and that the vaccines would be distributed and made available with a consideration that the developing countries and the most vulnerable and poor societies will get an equitable and fair chance in receiving them in parallel with their dissemination in the developed countries.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Agenda Item 7: UNIDO and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Mr. President,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China notes with appreciation the sustained efforts of the Director General to maintain the relevant and leading role of UNIDO in the pursuit of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, particularly under Goal 9 on Industry Innovation and Infrastructure.
- 2. The Group welcomes initiatives, including normative work through the release of the Industrial Development Report 2020 and other insightful publications, fund sourcing through partnerships with international financial institutions and multilateral funds such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, Global Environment Facility, and the Green Climate Fund, and collaborative actions through engagements with the UN and other international organizations and institutions, as well as the participation in the High Level Political Forum, which contribute to the strengthening of the Organization's mandate of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development as laid out in the Lima Declaration and emphasized under the Abu Dhabi Declaration of 2019.
- 3. The Group also appreciates the continued focus on Programme for Country Partnerships (PCPs) and Country Programmes (CPs) and urges the Organization to build upon and expand these programmes in order to maximize its ability to achieve developmental impact in countries that need them, and which the Group believes are crucial in driving economic development, employment and social stability in line with the vision of Goal 9.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Agenda Item 9: Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa

Mr. President,

- 1. The Group 77 and China took note of the Report on the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA III) and would like to express its appreciation for the efforts of the secretariat in this respect.
- 2. The Group believes that one of the most essential and pressing priorities in terms of implementing the IDDA III is the quick assignment of the Secretariat staff that will be mandated to implement and follow up the various strategies and policies related to IDDA III. The Group hopes that the Secretariat staff of IDDA III will be able to start their functions by January 2021considering that more than 4 years have elapsed since the beginning of the time frame of the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (2016 2025), and the Group is convinced that any further delay in this respect would be unjustified.
- 3. The Group would like to reiterate also its conviction that the active engagement of the secretariat in Vienna with the Permanent Missions, and the field offices with the competent National Authorities in the African countries, is essential in the successful planning and implementation of IDDA III. It is vital at this stage that there should be clear strategies and plans at the national, regional and continental levels that aim at executing measurable projects that will help national governments develop their inclusive and sustainable industrial policies and boost the regional and continental cooperation.
- 4. Furthermore, the Group is keen that the secretariat of UNIDO expands its contacts with the African Union and to develop more concrete plans of cooperation and complementarity in order to synergize the efforts and avoid duplication.
- 5. Finally, the Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation for the donor countries and International Institutions that seek to make IDDA III a successful endeavor through their support for the collaboration between the African countries and UNIDO, and that includes, among others, the European Union, Japan, Switzerland and Italy.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Agenda Item 10: Inclusive and sustainable industrial development in middle-income Countries

Mr. President,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China welcomes the adoption of the UNIDO Strategic Framework for Partnering with Middle-Income Countries, as contained in Board decision IDB.47/Dec.7, by the General Conference through resolution GC.18/Res.9 during its 18th session held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in November 2019.
- 2. Along these lines, the Group notes with appreciation the efforts of the Director General, through the Secretariat, to prepare a workplan as stipulated in the aforementioned General Conference resolution to operationalize the Strategic Framework, and the presentation of the said work plan in this session of the Board.
- 3. The Group also notes that the preparation of the workplan adheres to the strategic priority areas of technology advancement, human capital, and environmental sustainability as identified in the Strategic Framework, and with the view to continuing active engagement with MICs and other relevant stakeholders, leveraging of the Programme for Country Partnerships and Country Programmes, and technical cooperation, including South-South and triangular industrial cooperation with MICs.

- 4. Recognizing the extra-ordinary challenges confronting the world today, the Group appreciates the reference to the impact of COVID-19 on the industrial development efforts of MICs in the workplan, which gives added relevance and context to the document.
- 5. The Group believes that ownership of the workplan by Member States is crucial in its successful formulation and implementation, and, therefore, welcomes the opportunity to deliberate on, and refine the document through continuous consultations with the view to a timely and result-oriented workplan, all the while remaining cognizant of the relevant needs of MICs.
- 6. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Director General's report as contained in the document IDB.48/15.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Agenda Item 18: Preparations for the selection process for the post of the Director General

Mr. President,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China attaches high importance to the role of UNIDO as a main agency to respond to developing countries' needs for inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Accordingly, the Group considers that the role of the Director General is very significant, considering that he has the overall responsibility and authority to direct the work of the Organization.
- 2. The Group would like to express its deep appreciation for Mr. LI Yong, the current Director General, for his outstanding work, dedication, commitment and contributions in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development in the developing countries.4. As the primary objective of UNIDO is the promotion and acceleration of industrial development in the developing countries as stipulated in its constitution, therefore, the Group considers that the developing countries are in best position to define their needs, priorities, challenges and obstacles, as well as to formulate solutions in the field of industrial development.
- 3. The Group looks forward to the holding of the candidates' forum for the selection of the Director General of UNIDO for enhancing the transparency and inclusiveness of the selection process, as well as for interaction between the running candidates and the Member States.

Thank you, Mr. President.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)



Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the IAEA Informal Programme and Budget Committee Meeting, on 05 February 2020, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Omar Amer Youssef, Permanent Representative of Egypt

Madam Chair,

- 1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2021 contained in GOV/2020/1 and for the presentation provided today.
- 2. 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 is of the view that there should be balance between promotional and non-promotional activities.
- 3. The Group notes that the draft budget update for 2021 proposes no changes to the Agency's programme for 2020-2021 biennium as approved in the Agency's Programme and Budget 2020-2021 and that it represents zero real growth over 2020 with a 1.6% price adjustment in the regular budget. The Group further notes that the update envisages no changes to the Major Capital Investment Plan (MCIP). The Group has taken note of the annex provided which outlines cost savings and efficiencies, including those of a cross-cutting nature, as well as a list of cost saving measures to absorb the impact of the higher than anticipated increase in the Agency's Professional staff costs. The Group requests that such measures should not negatively impact the delivery of the Technical Cooperation programme.
- 4. Concerning possible options for the ASHI liability funding mechanism, the Group looks forwards to receiving information from the Secretariat, particularly in light of the relevant processes and discussions in the United Nations General Assembly and good practices from United Nations system organizations and other international organizations.
- 5. The Group welcomes the allocation of \in 4.1 million to complete the ReNuAL initiative in 2021 and calls on the Secretariat to continue to pursue a project-specific resource mobilization strategy. We welcome the vital role that the Nuclear Applications Laboratories at Seibersdorf play in providing support to Member States.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



G-77 and China Statement during the launch of the "IAEA Marie Sklodowksa Curie Fellowship Programme" in the margins of the IAEA Board of Governors, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan, Permanent Representative of Malaysia

Vienna, 9 March 2020

The Group of 77 and China would like to welcome the initiative of Director General Rafael Grossi to launch the "IAEA Marie Sklodowska Curie Fellowship Programme" to encourage women to pursue a professional career in nuclear science and technology.

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, geographical balance will be a part of the selection criteria for the fellowship.

You can count on our support.

Thank you.



G-77 and China Statement during the IAEA Board of Governors, 9-13 March 2020, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan, Permanent Representative of Malaysia

Agenda item 3: Nuclear and Radiation Safety: Nuclear Safety Review 2020

- 1. The Group expresses its gratitude to the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Safety Review 2020, as contained in document GOV/2020/2. The Group thanks the Director General for his introductory statement, as well as Deputy Director General Juan Carlos Lentijo for his remarks and for the technical briefing offered to Member States on 20 February 2020. [not to be read]
- 2. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China under this agenda item. Madam Chair,
- 3. The Group is pleased to note that Member States continued to make progress in improving nuclear safety in 2019.
- 4. While the Group reaffirms that the responsibility for nuclear safety within a State rests entirely with that Member State, it believes that the Agency has a central role in coordinating international efforts to strengthen nuclear safety globally, in providing expertise and advice and in promoting nuclear safety. In this regard, the Group welcomes the assistance provided by the Agency to its Member States, upon request.
- 5. 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) to prevent accidents with radiological consequences and mitigate such consequences should they occur. In this regard, the Agency should continue to assist Member States, upon request, in the implementation of the principles of the Vienna Declaration.
- 6. The Group recognizes the Agency's important role in developing Safety Standards and welcomes the issuance of seven General Safety Guides and seven Specific Safety Guides in 2019. In this regard, the Group encourages the Agency to continue supporting the participation of experts from developing countries in the Safety Standards Committees and the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee, as well as the Interface Group.
- 7. 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 ongoing work on the development of guidance on the management of radionuclides in food and drinking water in non-emergency situations and encourages the Agency to share the results with Member States.

- 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 30 Member States, many of which are members of the Group, are at different stages of initiating new nuclear power programmes, the Group encourages the Agency to increase support to such embarking Member States.
- 11. The Group reiterates the need for the Agency to uphold the principles of equitable geographical representation, workforce diversity and gender mainstreaming in its activities.
- 12. The Group wishes to emphasize that capacity-building, including the development of human resources and up-scaling knowledge and capabilities are key to the establishment, safety and sustainability of any nuclear program. Therefore, it is essential that the IAEA continue to provide such assistance, upon request, on regional and national levels, to developing countries in building their expertise in the relevant technical areas.
- 13. The Group highlights the importance it attaches to the development of a safety culture. In this regard, the Group notes that an increasing number of Member States are requesting assistance in further developing their leadership and management programmes for safety and continuous improvement, including safety culture assessments and that the Agency will assist Member States in their efforts to develop, foster and sustain safety culture.
- 14. In view of the increasing interest of Member States in small and medium sized or modular reactors (SMRs), the Group notes the conclusion of a study by the Agency on the application of the current design-related safety requirements to SMRs intended for near term deployment. The Group urges the Agency to continue to work on and expand the studies in that area, to make publications and more information on this issue available and to engage with Member States, which are building or intend to use SMRs in their many forms and contexts.
- 15. 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 lifecycle management. The Group encourages the Agency to continue to provide the requisite assistance, upon request, to Member States in these important areas.
- 16. The Group appreciates that in 2019 the Agency conducted 60 peer review and advisory services across all safety areas 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. The Group also welcomes the regular organization by the Agency of national, regional, and international workshops and training courses for Member States on all relevant issues.
- 17. On the Radiation Protection of Patients, Workers and the Public, the Group notes that the Agency will assist Member States in their efforts to justify the medical exposure of patients

through the use of clinical guidelines and to optimize the radiation protection of patients as well as occupational protection and health workers from the use of radiation in medicine. The Group urges the Agency to continue to assist Member States in strengthening their processes for communicating of radiation risk to the public in planned and existing exposure situations and during an emergency.

Madam Chair,

- 18. The Group notes that Member States have shown a greater interest in, and made increased use of, the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network. 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.
- 19. The Group is of the view that strengthening global nuclear safety depends on the full cooperation and participation among Member States and relevant stakeholders. Vendors of nuclear technologies also have a responsibility to provide to users access to all information, knowhow and tools necessary for safe operation.
- 20. 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. (62)/RES/6.
- 21. The Group welcomes the release of the updated versions of the Agency's Unified System for Information Exchange in Incidents and Emergencies (USIE) and the Emergency Preparedness and Response Information System (EPRIMS) with enhanced features as well as their increased usage. 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.
- 22. The Group welcomes the growth in the number of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (Joint Convention) and encourages Contracting Parties to actively participate in the Eight Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Fourth Extraordinary Meeting of the Joint Convention to be held in Vienna in March and May of 2020, respectively.

Madam Chair,

23. The Group welcomes the organization of a technical meeting, in April 2020, to consider options for addressing denials and delays in shipments of radioactive material and to provide an initial report on this issue.

24. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Nuclear Safety Review 2020, as contained in document GOV/2020/2.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda item 4: Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications: Nuclear Technology Review 2020

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Technology Review 2020, contained in document GOV/2020/4. 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 20th February 2020. [not to be read]

- 2. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China under this agenda item.
- 3. The year 2019 witnessed many developments in these areas. In this regard, the Group would like to make the following comments:
- 4. 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 and isotopic techniques are beneficial in supporting sustainable socioeconomic development in many countries, taking into account equitable geographical distribution and gender balance.
- 5. 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. The Group encourages the Secretariat to, in future reports, update Member States on the trends in the development of Nuclear Applications and their role in socio-economic development.
- 6. 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 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, to support national laboratories and to further enhance 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.

- 7. The Group notes the findings of the Agency and other relevant international organizations that highlight the need for increased use of nuclear power to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and notes that the advantages of nuclear power in climate change mitigation, as well as energy security and non-climatic environmental and socio-economic benefits, are important reasons why many countries, particularly developing countries, intend to introduce nuclear power in the coming decades, or to expand existing programmes. In this context, the Group requests the Secretariat to provide further detailed data regarding the nuclear power contribution in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in its future NTRs and encourages the Agency to enhance its support to developing countries.
- 8. The Group takes note of the Agency's participation at last year's COP 25 in Madrid, chaired by Chile, which discussed the potential role of low carbon energy in meeting global climate and energy challenges,. The Group also notes, the International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power, organized by the IAEA in October 2019, which stressed that nuclear power has a key role to play in helping to achieve climate goals by accelerating the transition to low carbon energy.
- 9. The Group recalls the convening of the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, co-chaired by Costa Rica and Japan, in November 2018 and its Ministerial Declaration. The Group notes with satisfaction that the conference attracted the highest ever-ministerial level participation which underscores the importance Member States attach to the Agency's work in promoting nuclear science and technology and its applications and their delivery through technical cooperation programme. In this regard, the Group looks forward to the follow up International Ministerial Conference on this subject in 2023.
- 10. The Group 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. The Agency's Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions and related missions provide a useful service in extending this type of cooperation to Member States as shown by the 2 missions conducted in 2019, and encourages the Agency to utilize experts from developing countries.
- 11. The Group reiterates its expression of 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 and requests the Secretariat to continue its support.
- 12. With regard to the IAEA LEU Bank, the Group reiterates that any arrangement for assurance of supply shall be in full accordance with the IAEA Statute and take into account the respective legal obligations of Member States, as well as the principle of non-discrimination, whereby the inalienable right of Member States to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, including national nuclear fuel cycles, is duly respected.

Madam Chair,

13. 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. The Group takes note that two INIR-RR peer review missions aimed at providing support and guidance to Member States are currently in progress.

- 14. 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 in addressing issues related to ageing management and underutilization of research reactors, and to assist interested Member States that are building or planning to build new ones.
- 15. 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 foster international cooperation and enable research reactors to expand their stakeholder and user communities.
- 16. The Group notes that the brief outages at some global molybdenum-99 target irradiation facilities in 2019 resulted in regional supply shortages. In this regard, the Group reiterates its request to the Secretariat to remain vigilant on this important issue, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of radioisotope supplies, including through the enhancement of the utilization of existing reactors in developing countries.

Madam Chair,

- 17. The Group notes that the report is not addressing Agency's contribution in developing or utilizing Nuclear Techniques in the area of water resources management and requests the Secretariat to include relevant developments in future Nuclear Technology Review Reports given the vital importance of this area.
- 18. 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, the Group calls on all Member States, in a position to do so, to provide the appropriate support for renovation and upgrading of the Seibersdorf Laboratories.

Madam Chair,

19. The Group values the Agency's assistance to Member States, especially to developing countries, in the field of medical applications. 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 would also like to highlight and appreciate the Agency support in delivering the imPACT (integrated mission of PACT) Review service to Member States, including through provision of assistance in developing bankable documents.

- 20. In this regard, the Group takes note of the advances made regarding Boron Neutron Capture Therapy and looks forward to further progress in the applications of this technology in the treatment of cancer patients. The Group also takes note of the development and launch of the Medical Isotope Browser.
- 21. The Group also notes with interest that current developments in innovative pest control approaches, such as the sterile insect technique (SIT), which, deployed as an important component of an area-wide integrated pest management (AW-IPM) approach, can prevent the establishment of, and contain and eradicate, an invasive pest population without raising public opposition or leaving an ecological footprint.

Madam Chair,

- 22. The Group also welcomes the work undertaken by the Agency in environmental protection, specifically with regards to plastic waste and the recycling of polymers. The Group also notes the ongoing researches on Nuclear Techniques in Marine Plastic Research to address the fate and toxicity of micro-plastics and associated contaminants in marine organisms. The Group encourages the IAEA to continue its work in this regard.
- 23. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Nuclear Technology Review 2020, as contained in document GOV/2020/4.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



G-77 and China draft statement IAEA Programme and Budget Committee Meeting, 11 May 2020, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Ganeson SIVAGURUNATHAN, Permanent Representative of Malaysia

Agenda item 1: Statement by the Director General on the Agency's response to the COVID-19 outbreak

Madam Chair,

1. At the outset the Group of 77 and China wishes to express its solidarity with all Member States of the Agency who have been affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Group also appreciates the efforts of the Director General and the Secretariat to ensure that the activities of the Agency continue to be carried out as much as possible, in spite of the current difficult situation pertinent to the pandemic. Madam Chair, the Group also appreciates the initiative of the Director General in providing assistance to Member States in their efforts to tackle the effects of the pandemic, including through the nuclear derived techniques and related equipment. The Group also appreciates the extrabudgetary contributions by Member States in this regard.

Thank you Madam Chair.

Agenda item 3: The Agency's Financial Statements for 2019 including the External Auditor's Report

- 1. The Group of 77 and China thanks the Deputy Director General for her introductory statement, and the staff of the Secretariat for the video presentations on financial and administrative matters published on GOVATOM in preparation for the Q & A virtual session, which took place on 28th April 2020.
- 2. With regard to the Financial Statements of the Agency for 2019, including the External auditor's report, as contained in document GOV/2020/12, the Group would like to make the following comments:

- 3. The Group would like to express its appreciation to the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia for the professionalism in conducting the audit on the Agency's activities for the fourth consecutive year, 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 in this regard the implementation of relevant recommendations aimed at improving management and enhancing efficiency.
- 5. On the Financial aspect, the Group notes that the Regular Budget Fund experienced an increase in revenue from assessed contributions and that Revenue from voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) for 2019 was higher than in 2018 due to increased target share and a higher rate of attainment against the TCF target. However, the Group would like to underscore the fact that TC activities continue to lack sufficient, assured and predictable resources and requests the Secretariat to address this issue.
- 6. The Group would like to note that the TCF has positive net assets, including a €4.9 million increase in 2019, which while reflecting its overall health, should not be interpreted to mean that TCF resources exceed what can be implemented. The Group would like to clarify that this is 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.
- 7. The Group notes that the Extrabudgetary Programme Fund experienced a decrease in its revenue from voluntary contributions of 11.6 million euros. While appreciating the extrabudgetary contributions that were made by those in a position to do so, the Group would like to caution against the over reliance on extra budgetary funds as this could negatively impact the effectiveness and independence, as well as long term sustainability of the Agency's activities. The Group therefore calls on all Member States to pay their contributions to the Regular Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund on time and in full.
- 8. The Group notes with concern the overall increase in the Agency's liabilities in 2019, in particular the €84.4 million increase concerning After Service Health Insurance (ASHI), and takes note of the Secretariat's explanation that it was primarily the result of the impact of changes in the actuarial assumptions and methodologies for calculation of the long-term employee benefit liabilities. The

Group further notes the Director General's report concerning ASHI, as contained in document GOV/INF/2020/1. The Group urges the Secretariat to continue addressing the significant growing liabilities, and to consult regularly with Member States about the relevant measures to be taken in that regard. The Group also requests the Secretariat to brief Member States on the evolution of a sound funding strategy for meeting these liabilities. The Group emphasizes that any decision on ASHI is in the hands of Member States, on the basis of full, consistent and transparent information. 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.

9. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Agency's financial statements for 2019, as contained in document GOV/2020/12, and documents GOV/INF/2020/1 and GOV/INF/2020/4.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda Item 4: The 2019 Internal Audit, Management Services and Investigations Report and the 2019 Programme Evaluation Report

- 1. The Group of 77 and China thanks the Secretariat and the Director of Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for the 2019 Internal Audit, Management Services and Investigations Report and the 2019 Programme Evaluation Report, contained in documents GOV/2020/10 and GOV/2020/11.
- 2. The Group would like to express 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 also that the audit and evaluation carried by the OIOS should cover all Major Programmes equally.
- 4. On the summary of results of the 2019 Audit Plan contained in section C of the Report, the Group would takes note that the area of Technical Cooperation received an audit rating of "needs improvement". In this regard, the Group requests the Secretariat to ensure that, while implementing the OIOS recommendations, there is no negative impact on the programmatic delivery of Technical Cooperation to

Member States as well as on the participation of experts from developing countries in Agency activities.

- 5. The Group took note with satisfaction that there were no Overdue recommendations in 2019.
- 6. Turning to the 2019 Programme Evaluation Report, the Group would like to make the following comments:
 - 6.1 Regarding the Evaluation of the Agency's Assistance in Clinical Nuclear Medicine, the Group would like to emphasize the importance it attaches to this issue and requests the Secretariat to continue to advance its efforts in this regard and to capitalize on the available opportunities for strengthening the strategic coherence of clinical nuclear medicine activities.
 - 6.2 Regarding the Evaluation of the Agency's Work in the Area of Nuclear Applications for Animal Production and Health, the Group acknowledges that the Animal Production and Health Section (APHS) of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture has been delivering services effectively to respond to the demands of Agency Member States and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) member countries, through applying nuclear and nuclear-derived techniques as novel solutions to address challenges in animal breeding, nutrition and health. The Group reiterates its commitment to this issue and urges the Secretariat to continue to seek way and means to maximize efficacy and efficiency in this regard.
 - 6.3 Regarding the Evaluation of the Agency's Work on the Safety Aspects of Long Term Operation of Nuclear Power Plants, the Group notes the assessment made that both the Safety Aspects of Long Term Operation (SALTO) peer review service and the International Generic Ageing Lessons Learned (IGALL) programme have demonstrated their effectiveness in supporting NPPs during their preparation for LTO, with tangible improvements made, thereby enhancing the safety aspects of their LTO programmes. Regarding the use of TC funding for SALTO peer reviews and their related activities, the Group requests the Secretariat to operate in close consultation with Member States and seek consensual agreement on set of unambiguous criteria for such use.
 - 6.4 On the Evaluation of the Agency's Work Concerning the Safe and Secure Transport of Radioactive Material, the Group notes that the comprehensive portfolio of products provided by the Agency assist Member States in

ensuring that transport occurs in a regulatory controlled and safe manner, complemented by security systems and other measures that protect the activity from unauthorized and malicious acts. The Group also notes that the OIOS established that the broader objective that includes efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability aspects of transport, beyond safety and security considerations, is not yet systematically supported by the Agency and that it was confirmed that denials and delays in shipment pose a strategic risk to the Agency's mandate.

7. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the 2019 Internal Audit Activity Report, as contained in document GOV/2020/10, and the 2019 Programme Evaluation Report, contained in document GOV/2020/11.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda item 6: The Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2021

- 1. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for issuing the proposal of the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2021.
- 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 also notes that the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2021, as contained in document GOV/2020/1 reflects the elements agreed upon in the Proposal to the Board of Governors by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on the Regular Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund Targets for 2020–2021, as contained in document GOV/2019/25.
- 4. The Group recalls that the Secretariat should include in the Agency's Draft Programme and Budget 2022–2023, budgetary information by items of expenditure, as well as the level of Full Time Equivalents by staff category.
- 5. Regarding the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF), the Group takes note that the target for voluntary contributions to the TCF recommended by the Board of Governors amounts to €89 558 000 for 2021. The Group reiterates its view that future decisions on TCF targets and Indicative Planning Figures must take 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-a/projects;
- the price adjustments;
- other relevant factors.
- 6. Bearing these factors in mind, the Group reiterates the call for the need to balance the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.
- 7. The Group has taken note of the annex provided which outlines cost savings and efficiencies, including those of a cross-cutting nature, as well as a list of cost saving measures to absorb the impact of the higher than anticipated increase in the Agency's staff costs. The Group requests that such measures should not negatively impact the delivery of the Technical Cooperation Programme.
- 8. In light of the likely effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of the implementation of the Programme and Budget, including the TCP, in 2020 and possibly 2021, the Group requests that any changes required in implementation be addressed in close coordination with affected Member States and informed accordingly.
- 9. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Agency's Draft Budget Update for 2021, as contained in document GOV/2020/1.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



G-77 and China statement during the virtual IAEA Board of Governors, Starting on 15 June 2020 delivered by H. E. Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan, Permanent Representative of Malaysia

Agenda Item 2: The Annual Report for 2019

Madam 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 2019 as contained in document GOV/2020/8 and for the virtual presentation uploaded on May 22nd.

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 and that six new nuclear reactors were connected to the grid in 2019. 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 takes note of the IAEA's International Conference on Climate Change and the role of nuclear power held in Vienna in October 2019.
- 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 Infra-structure Review (INIR) missions and National Nuclear Energy System Assessments (NESAs).

- 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 priority needs.
- 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. 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 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, and their successful use in seawater desalination, taking into account their

demonstrated overall cost-effectiveness. The Group requests the Secretariat to continue its support to Member States in this regard.

Madam Chair,

- 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 Group appreciates the contributions made by Member States for the construction and renovation of the laboratories, through the Renovation of the Nuclear Application Laboratories (ReNuAL and ReNuAL+) Projects. The Group continues to encourage Member States to support the ReNuAL + project.
- 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 animal diseases, the development of the Sterile Insect Technique and addressing crop diseases.
- 12. In the field of human health, the Group commends the work of the Agency in 2019, especially in the fight against cancer. In this regard, the group welcomes the new Roadmap towards a National Cancer Control Programme developed jointly by the Agency and the World Health Organization that brings together the technical knowledge and information about the services that countries require when designing and establishing a comprehensive national cancer control programme.
- 13. The Group recognizes the unique role that the Agency plays in enhancing the capabilities of Member States in managing water resources as well as marine and terrestrial environmental pollutants using nuclear techniques.
- 14. 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

- 15. The Group reiterates its appreciation for the IAEA's continuing efforts to promote nuclear safety worldwide and welcomes the diverse activities undertaken in 2019. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for nuclear safety rests with the States, the Group believes that the Agency plays an important role in this field as provided for in Article III of its Statute. The Group remains of the view that nuclear safety and security considerations should not hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.
- 16. 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 2019.

- 17. The Group takes note of the outcomes of the key nuclear safety conferences as presented in the report and requests that their follow-up be done in close consultations with Member States whenever necessary. 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 new publications in the Safety Guides series in 2019.
- 18. The Group notes the Agency's continued efforts in 2019 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.

Technical Cooperation

Madam Chair,

- 19. The Group recalls the convening of the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, co-chaired by Costa Rica and Japan, in November 2018 and its Ministerial Declaration. The Group reaffirms the importance Member States attach to the Agency's work in promoting nuclear science and technology and its applications and their delivery through technical cooperation programme and, in this regard, the Group looks forward to the follow up International Ministerial Conference on this subject in 2023.
- 20. 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.
- 21. With these comments, the Group takes note of the Agency's Annual Report for 2019 contained in document GOV/2020/8.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda Item 3: Strengthening of the Agency's Technical Cooperation Activities

Technical Cooperation Report for 2019

Madam Chair,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation, Mr. Dazhu Yang, for his introductory remarks under this agenda item. The Group also thanks the Technical Cooperation Department for preparing the Technical Cooperation Report for 2019, contained in document GOV/2020/19 and for and the briefing provided on June 3rd.

- 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. The Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is the main delivery vehicle for this statutory function.
- 3. The Group welcomes the success of the Technical Cooperation activities in the different regions, and commends the Secretariat for its support and assistance to Member States.
- 4. The Group reiterates that the Technical Cooperation 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 (62)/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.

Madam Chair,

5. 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. 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).

- 6. The Group would also like to recall the established process of the medium-term national planning mechanisms, such as Country Programme Frameworks (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. Madam Chair,
- 8. The Group notes that the rate of attainment on payments to the TCF for 2019, as of 31 December 2019, was 94 %. The Group emphasizes the importance of the TCF in the successful implementation of the TCP 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 Technical Cooperation 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 requests the Secretariat to include in future reports the details of the increasing number of participants in TCP 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 (SAP) 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 Technical Cooperation Programme.
- 11. The Group appreciates the extra budgetary contributions to the TC Programme and the decision of some countries to participate in the government cost-sharing mechanism. The Group emphasizes that such contributions and decisions are not assured and predictable. They therefore cannot replace the Technical Cooperation Fund, which is the primary funding mechanism essential to a stable and strategic TC Programme.

Madam Chair,

12. The Group takes note of the important contribution the Agency's TCP could make to the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (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 also maintains that alignment with the SDGs should not constitute a limitation or condition for TC projects, nor a tool for their reprioritization. In this regard, the Group also reiterates its strong position that TC should not be subject to any form of conditionality, and requests the Secretariat to continue to adhere to this principle. 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.

Madam Chair,

- 13. 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.
- 14. 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.

- 15. The Group reiterates that alignment with United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) 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 UNDAF in order to facilitate close coordination with UN agencies to address national priorities in sustainable development.
- 16. 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 NLO meetings hosted in Vienna. The Group welcomes the inclusion of gender as a consideration in TC project design.

- 17. The Group underlines the importance of cancer therapy in developing countries and urges the IAEA to continue building capacities in developing countries, including those that still have no access to 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 integrated missions of PACT (imPACT), 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 under the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). The Group notes that the DGOC is playing a coordinating role on PACT within the Agency, and while we will appreciate updates on this important subject, the Group urges that PACT should continue to be in a position to meet the needs of Member States.
- 18. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Technical Cooperation Report for 2018 contained in document GOV/2020/19.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda Item 4: Report of the Programme and Budget Committee

Madam Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the Report of the Programme and Budget Committee. The Group would like to thank DDG Mary Alice Hayward and the staff of the Department of Management for their efforts during the deliberations of the Committee, as well as the DDG of Technical Cooperation, Dazhu Yang and his department for all the briefings provided and also the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the External Auditor and his staff for the reports presented.
- 2. The Group had made detailed comments and observations on the related reports during the Programme and Budget Committee Meeting.
- 3. The Group is pleased to note that "an unqualified opinion" has once again been placed on the Agency's financial statements for 2019. The External Auditor has made several observations and recommendations for the improvement of the Agency's financial practices. While appreciating these comments, the Group reiterates that the Secretariat should take a cautious approach when considering these recommendations and, where appropriate, consult Member States prior to taking any measures in that regard

- 4. The Group would like 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.
- 5. The Group believes that the promotional activities of the Agency are its main statutory function and the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is the main vehicle for delivering on this statutory function. The Group notes that in the current biennium (2020-2021), 141 Member States, including 35 LDCs, will have a national TCP, representing an increase of 5 Member States compared to the previous biennium. This underscores the necessity of Sufficient, Assured and Predictable resources for the TCP in order to enable it to adequately respond to Member States' growing needs for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology for their sustainable development, and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in accordance with national priorities.

6. Regarding the staff, the Group would like to emphasize the need to maintain a balance across MPs in both numbers and level of staff. Further, recruitment to additional posts should be in line with the Secretariat's efforts to increase the representation of under-represented Member States and region, especially at the professional and managerial levels.

Madam Chair,

- 7. In light of the likely effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of the implementation of the Programme and Budget, including the TCP, in 2020 and possibly 2021, the Group requests that any changes required in implementation be addressed in close coordination with affected Member States and informed accordingly.
- 8. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Report of the Programme and Budget Committee as contained in document GOV/2020/25 and the Budget update proposals contained in document GOV/2020/1.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda Item 10: The IAEA and the COVID-19 pandemic

Madam Chair,

- 1. At the outset the Group of 77 and China wishes to express its solidarity with all Member States of the Agency who have been affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Group appreciates the efforts of the Director General and the Secretariat to ensure that the activities of the Agency continue to be carried out as much as possible, in spite of the current difficult situation pertinent to the pandemic.
- 2. Madam Chair, the Group also appreciates the initiative of the Director General in providing assistance to Member States in their efforts to tackle the effects of the pandemic, including through the nuclear derived techniques and related equipment. The Group also appreciates the extrabudgetary and in-kind contributions by Member States in this regard. The Group encourages the Secretariat to accelerate the provision of equipment to tackle these issues to requesting Member States.
- 3. The Group appreciates the new initiative presented by the Director General in his report focusing on identifying monitoring, tracing and early detection of zoonotic disease pathogens (ZODIAC), with a view to strengthening the ability of the IAEA and its Member States to respond to these kinds of disease outbreaks in the future. The Group expresses its full support to this initiative and to the Agency's efforts in leveraging the usage of nuclear derived techniques towards tackling such issues.

Thank you Madam Chair.



G-77 and China Statement during the IAEA Board of Governors, 14-18 September 2020, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Maria Cleofe Natividad, Permanent Representative of the Philippines

Agenda Item 3: Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) Project

Madam Chairperson,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Director General for his remarks under this agenda item, and notes his report entitled "Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action Project, Early Detection and Global Response", as contained in GOV/INF/2020/13, which contains a description of the Agency's approach to implement the ZODIAC initiative.

Madam Chairperson,

- 2. The Group acknowledges the role of the Agency in assisting Member States to address their socio-economic development goals especially in maintaining and strengthening their public health systems including in human health, food and agriculture, animal health and zoonotic diseases.
- 3. The Group believes that nuclear science, technology and applications and nuclear-derived techniques are useful tools to assist Member States in detecting and responding to and combatting zoonotic diseases.
- 4. The Group recognizes that the establishment in 2013 of the Veterinary Disease Diagnostic Laboratories (VETLAB) Network continues to fulfil a crucial role in enabling Member States to fight zoonotic diseases, through building capacity and enabling cross-boundary collaborations.
- 5. Building upon the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group is also of the opinion that there is a need for an integrated global approach and a concerted international effort involving all relevant stakeholders in research, technology development and innovation to reduce the risk of exposure of human beings to dangerous pathogens.
- 6. Likewise, the Group maintains that all Member States should benefit from the application of nuclear and nuclear-derived techniques in responding to zoonotic diseases, as well in addressing these key issues through interdisciplinary measures at national, regional and international levels.
- 7. In this regard, the Group acknowledges that the Agency is at the forefront of research, development and application of nuclear and nuclear-derived techniques for the characterization of zoonotic pathogens and tracing their circulation at the environment–animal–human interface, and thereby is uniquely placed to lead, facilitate and coordinate international efforts to support Member States in building their capabilities for combating zoonotic diseases through science and technology.
- 8. The Group Welcomes the Director General's formal announcement on the establishment of the IAEA's Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action (ZODIAC) project at the Board of Governors meeting on 15 June 2020.

- 9. The Group welcomes the objective of the ZODIAC project that is to strengthen the ability of the Agency and through the Agency to its Member States, to prepare and respond to future zoonotic disease threats and outbreaks, as well as the outbreaks of transboundary animal and zoonotic diseases. In this regard, the Group wishes to stress the need for the IAEA, in accordance with its Statute, to respond to the needs and priorities of Member States including in building the capacity of national laboratories to enable Member States to play the central role in the implementation of ZODIAC.
- 10. The Group underlines that ZODIAC project shall be Member States driven, and in line with their needs and priorities, with respect to the implementation of all the programmatic activities of the IAEA.
- 11. The Group also takes note that ZODIAC intends to build on the existing partnership between the IAEA and the FAO, and to include coordination with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and other partner institutions and laboratories. Therefore, the Group requests the Secretariat to avoid duplication and to build and expand on existing IAEA delivery mechanisms and networks, in its implementation of ZODIAC.

Madam Chairperson,

- 12. The Group takes note that ZODIAC will be based on five interconnected pillars and requests the Secretariat to further expand the details of ZODIAC, in close consultation with Member States with a view to making this initiative responsive to the needs of Member States.
- 13. The Group takes note that the ZODIAC project will be fully reliant on extra-budgetary resources and will focus on building the capacity of laboratories in Member States including through the proposed interregional TC project "Supporting national and regional capacity in integrated action for control of zoonotic diseases". The Group looks forward to further discussion at the TACC, including about the impact of this project on the overall Technical Cooperation programme and emphasizes that ZODIAC should be focused primarily on providing assistance to developing countries.
- 14. The Group urges the Secretariat to strengthen its resource mobilization efforts, including by seeking project-specific extra-budgetary funding for the implementation of ZODIAC, as well as by building on its previous experience in mobilizing non-traditional and private sector donors.
- 15. The Group urges the Secretariat to sustain focus on the priorities and activities outlined in the TCP, as well as the programme and budget, including efforts to mobilize extrabudgetary resources for them.
- 16. The Group thanks the Secretariat for the briefings provided to Member States on 14 July, 3 and 10 September 2020. We request that the Secretariat continues to consult with Member States and provide further information including a detailed project plan, which outlines the proposed timeframe for implementation, as well as the financial, organizational, and human resource implications of the project, and to provide periodic reports to the Board of Governors.
- 17. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of documents GOV/INF/2020/13 and GOV/2020/37.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Agenda Item 4: Programme Performance Report for 2018-2019

Madam Chairperson,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China, would like to thank the Director General for his introductory statement and the Secretariat for preparing the Programme Performance Report 2018-2019, contained in document GOV/2020/29.
- 2. The Group is pleased to note that the Secretariat continues to take various measures to strengthen the implementation of results based approach to programme planning and looks forward to the implementation of actions based on Agency-wide lessons learned. The group notes that all Major Programmes, in the operational portion of the Regular Budget, had a utilization rate of either 99.9% or 100%, demonstrating high usage of the funding provided. The Group further notes that the Agency met 89 of 93 target indicators, or 96%, at the programme level for 2018-2019, while three are slightly below target and one is far below.
- 3. In the Major Programme 1, the Group appreciates the Agency's continued assistance to Member States considering, planning or operating nuclear power plants, research reactors, and fuel cycle facilities, as well as in nuclear science through various means of delivery, and looks forward to further refinements as brought out in the report. The group notes with satisfaction that the convening of the first International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power, as well as the Agency's participation in COP25, contributed to the understanding of the role of nuclear power in addressing climate change.
- 4. Under Major Programme 2, the Group is pleased to note the continued support to Member States in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in the areas of food and agriculture, human health, water, the environment, and radioisotope production and radiation technology. The Group welcomes the significant progress in the Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories (ReNuAL). The Group particularly notes the contribution of the Joint FAO/IAEA Program of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture in the development and deployment of nuclear applications for food security, the Agency's complementarity and synergy with other organizations such as the WHO, the expanded use of ICT to improve access to radiation medicine professionals, the support for Member States in using isotope hydrology tools and methods, and the development of new nuclear and isotopic techniques to address climate change impacts on marine ecosystems.
- 5. On Major Programme 3, the Group notes the support to Member States in their efforts to improve nuclear safety and security. The Group notes that the work will continue to strengthen the global safety and security framework through the publication and revision of standards and guidance, as needed, and promoting their application. The Group appreciates the Agency's activities supporting adherence to and implementation of relevant international instruments. The Group remains of the view that nuclear safety and nuclear security considerations should not hamper the utilization of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.
- 6. On Major Programme 4, the Group notes the Agency's application of the relevant safeguards agreements, the updating and development of State-level safeguards approaches, and the Modernization of Safeguards Information Technology project.
- 7. On Major Programme 5, the Group notes the continued efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programme delivery. The Group stresses the importance of enhanced transparency and communication with Member States in the implementation of policy,

management and administrative changes. The Group takes note of Agency activities towards cross-cutting issues such as resource mobilization and gender equality.

- 8. The Group notes that the Major Programme 6 continued to transfer nuclear and related technology to Member States through human and institutional capacity building and supported Member States in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. The Group also notes that the rate of attainment on the payments to the TCF for 2018 and 2019, were 91.4% and 94% respectively. The Group emphasises the importance of the TCF in the implementation of the TCP 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 reiterates that the Technical Cooperation Programme is a shared responsibility and that its success depends on the combined efforts of the Department of Technical Cooperation, other relevant departments and Member States. These efforts are crucial for the planning and successful implementation of the Programme, which should be based on the needs, evolving priorities and ownership of Member States implementing TC projects.
- 9. The Group remains concerned that the resources available to the TC Programme are still not sufficient, assured and predictable (SAP) 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 Technical Cooperation Programme.
- 10. The Group remains concerned over the asymmetry between the promotional and non-promotional activities of the Agency, and therefore believes that sufficient funding from the regular budget must be secured for Major Programmes 1, 2 and 6 in order to respond to the growing needs of developing countries.
- 11. With these comments, the Group takes note of the Programme Performance Report for 2018-2019 as contained in GOV/2020/29.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda Item 5: Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety

Madam Chairperson,

1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank Deputy Director General Juan Carlos Lentijo for his remarks under this agenda item, and commends the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security for the preparation of document GOV/2020/35-GC(64)/7, as well as for the work carried out between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020, pursuant to the General Conference resolution GC(63)/RES/4.

Madam Chairperson,

2. The Group would like to express its condolences to and its solidarity with the Member States that have suffered or continue to suffer loss of lives and livelihoods on account of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as to acknowledge the Agency's support to Member States on the safety of operations of nuclear and radiation facilities and related activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 3. In this regard, the Group welcomes the report of the Director General, as contained in GC(64)/INF/6 "IAEA Activities related to the Performance of Nuclear and Radiological Facilities and Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic";
- 4. 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 long-standing expertise.
- 5. 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.
- 6. The Group highlights the importance of maintaining, improving and promoting nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, and emergency preparedness and response worldwide, including during the challenges and restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Group appreciates the Agency's continuous efforts aimed at supporting Member States in sharing 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 adapt itself to this new situation and to continue these activities, in spite of the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 7. The Group emphasizes the importance of building and strengthening capacities in all Member States, especially the developing countries. In this regard, 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 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.
- 8. 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.

Madam Chairperson,

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 notes that the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated the challenges related to delays and denials of shipment of radioactive sources including medical isotopes, the Group calls on all Member States to facilitate to the highest extent possible, the shipment of these materials through their sea ports and airports and to minimize delays and denials even during this difficult period. Finally, the Group calls on the Agency to convene a technical meeting before the end of the year virtually to further discuss measures which may be taken to overcome delays and denials of shipment.
- 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, as well as for addressing radiation safety infrastructure in Member States that have expressed an interest in establishing or enhancing their cancer control capacity through integrated missions of the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (imPACT) review missions.

Madam Chairperson,

- 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 takes note of the Revised Process for the Sharing of the Information as States' Implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its Supplementary Guidance (2019 edition) while underlining the voluntary nature of the Code of Conduct. The Group requests the Secretariat to brief Member States regarding its implementation.
- 18. With these remarks, the Group of 77 and China takes note of document GOV/2020/35-GC(64)/7. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Agenda item 6: Nuclear security

Madam Chairperson,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China wishes to thank the Secretariat for preparing the Nuclear Security Report 2020, which covers the period 1 July 2019 30 June 2020, as contained in document GOV/2020/31-GC(64)/6. The Group also expresses its thanks to Deputy Director-General Juan Carlos Lentijo for his introductory remarks under this agenda item, as well as to the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security for the technical briefing provided to delegations on 28 August 2020.
- 2. The Group reiterates its view that the responsibility for nuclear security within a State rests entirely with that State. The Group urges the Secretariat to always reflect this important principle in full in accordance with the Nuclear Security Resolutions.
- 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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. The Group also notes the information provided by the Secretariat on external users of the ITDB and their access level and on the occasions where the Agency shared the information from the ITDB to States.
- 8. 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.

- 9. 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.
- 10. The Group appreciates the continued efforts of the Agency to develop and implement Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans (INSSPs) to assist Member States, upon request, in applying a structured and holistic 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.
- 11. The Group welcomes the continued improvement of the Nuclear Security Information Portal (NUSEC). The Group also notes improvements made to NUSEC including the continued enhancements of the IPPAS Good Practice Database, the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC Network) database, and the common calendar to provide information on all training courses and other events hosted by NSSC Network members.
- 12. The Group further notes the continued maintenance and update of the Nuclear Security Information Management System (NUSIMS), a web-based platform for States to perform nuclear security self-assessment on a voluntary basis.
- 13. Recognizing the growing requests of Member States for the Agency's support in information and computer security, the Group appreciates the Agency's efforts in responding to those requests through developing additional nuclear security guidance and providing a number of training courses.
- 14. 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.
- 15. Concerning the Agency's advisory services, the Group notes that the Agency's International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission was conducted, upon request, in Member States and that the Agency began implementing the new guidelines for International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) mission.
- 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 with satisfaction that, during this reporting period, the Agency has provided instructor-led training to over 2400 participants from 142 States and e-learning modules

to 1800 users from 134 States. 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 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.
- 20. The Group notes the Agency's main goals and priorities concerning nuclear security for 2020-2021, which include preparations for the next International Conference on the Safe and Secure Transport of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials to be held in December 2021, and the continued preparations for the Review Conference of the CPPNM and its 2005 Amendment to take place in 2021.
- 21. With these remarks, the Group takes note of the Nuclear Security Report 2020.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Agenda Item 7: Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications

Madam Chairperson,

- 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/2020/28-GC(64)/5, in response to General Conference resolutions GC(63)/RES/10 and GC(62)/RES/19. (Not to be read).
- 2. 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 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 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 Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, co-chaired by Costa Rica and Japan in November 2018 and its Ministerial Declaration. The Group notes with satisfaction that the conference attracted the highest ever-ministerial level participation, which underscores the importance Member States attach to the Agency's work in promoting nuclear science and technology and its application and delivery through TCP. 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 2023. In this regard, the Group looks forward to participating in consultations due to start in 2021, with a view to holding the conference as scheduled.

- 4. The Group notes with appreciation the 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, to implement its programmatic activities and promote the practical use of nuclear techniques, and 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. Recognizing the positive impact of CRPs in the Technical Cooperation Programme, and their resulting publications, the Group urges the Secretariat to further ensure benefits from possible synergies and avoiding duplication in this regard.
- 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. The Group notes with appreciation the 35th General Conference of the International Scientific Council for Trypanosomosis Research and Control, which were held in Abuja in September 2019. The Group takes note of the assessment that tsetse flies and the trypanosomosis problem constitute one of the greatest constraints on the African continent's socio- economic development, affecting the health of humans and livestock, limiting sustainable rural development and thus causing increased poverty and food insecurity. The Group encourages the continuation of the Agency's support toward the AU PATTEC initiative to eradicate tsetse and Trypanosomosis from the African continent through the creation of sustainable tsetse and trypanosomosis free areas. The Group 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 non-traditional donors, including through an initiative to seek further private sector partners utilizing the UN Global Marketplace portal. The Group also welcomes the operationalization of the new Insect Pest Control Laboratory building at the end of 2019, as well as the completion and subsequent official opening of the Yukiya Amano Laboratories (YAL) at the IAEA laboratories in Seibersdorf in May and June 2020, respectively. The Group is further pleased to note that the YAL building is now operational and amongst others, houses the Animal Production and Health Laboratory which has continued to provide invaluable support to Member States in fighting transboundary and zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19.
- 7. On Annex 4 related to the "Development of the Sterile Insect Technique Package for the Management of DiseaseTransmitting Mosquitoes", the Group appreciates the Agency's continued efforts, in particular the Joint FAO/IAEA and the IPCL in Seibersdorf, to develop, validate, and optimize the sterile insect technique (SIT) package as a complementary tool for the management of mosquito populations. The Group notes that mosquito-borne diseases remains among the most severe threats to the health of millions of people worldwide. In this regard, the Group encourages

the Agency to continue to pursue its efforts to develop SIT package for mosquitos to effectively combat disease-transmitting mosquitos. The Group encourages Member States to contribute additional funds in order to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

- 8. On Annex 5, "Strengthening the support to Member States in food and agriculture", the Group commends the Agency for the work carried out in response to a demand of technical assistance from Member States that remains high in the area of nuclear applications in food and agriculture delivered including through CRPs and technical cooperation projects. The Group appreciates the efforts done in development and enhancement of laboratory networks including the VETLAB and RALACA networks. The Group further welcomes the Agency's securing of extrabudgetary funds for this important area. The Group encourages the FAO/IAEA Joint Division to continue its efforts to increase the contribution of nuclear science and technology to raising agricultural productivity and sustainability, and also to respond major global trends framing agriculture development, including the adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change.
- 9. On Annex 6, "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 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 and its contribution to addressing climate change issues and to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, the Group welcomes the convening of the IAEA International Conference on Climate Change and the Role of Nuclear Power held in Vienna, from 7-11 October 2019. 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, and in this regard, welcomes the focus of the 2020 Scientific Forum, "Nuclear Power and the Clean Energy Transition".

Madam Chairperson,

- 11. The Group notes that the next International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Power in the 21st Century, is scheduled to take place in the United States of America in October 2021. The Group looks forward to a successful conference with a view to advancing the role of nuclear power in meeting future energy demands, contributing to sustainable development and mitigating climate change. 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.
- 12. 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, while reiterating its call for continued support for INPRO from the Regular Budget. The Group notes with appreciation the three documents issued in 2020 in relation to INPRO methodology, namely

INPRO Methodology for Sustainability Assessment of Nuclear Energy Systems: Waste Management (IAEA-TECDOC-1901), INPRO Methodology for Sustainability Assessment of Nuclear Energy Systems.

- 13. The Group values the support provided to Member States embarking on or expanding a nuclear power programme, upon their request, through inter-alia, the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) missions, and National Nuclear Energy System Assessments (NESAs) The Group also notes the various activities undertaken by the agency to assist Member States interested in uranium production, as well in their efforts to deploy safe, secure and economically viable small and medium sized or modular reactors (SMRs).
- 14. The Group reiterates its support for the initiative launched by the Director General, titled "Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MSCFP)" through which the IAEA could accord a 2-year scholarship for up to 100 female graduate, pursuing master degree in nuclear science and technology or non-proliferation, with a view to promoting gender equality and diversity in the context of nuclear knowledge management.

Madam Chair,

- 15. The Group would like to highlight that as a result of the difficulties and restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic this year, parts of the General Conference resolution on "Strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications" (annexes 4, 5 and 6) that were scheduled to be presented and adopted at the 64th General Conference have been postponed to the 65th General Conference and requests that they be maintained as its agenda items. In this regard, in the part of the resolution on "non-power nuclear applications" drafted by the G-77 and China, the annexes on "Development of the sterile insect technique for the control or eradication of malaria-, dengue-, and other diseases transmitting mosquitoes"; "Strengthening the support to Member States in food and agriculture"; and "Plan for producing potable water economically using small and medium-sized nuclear reactors" (to be drafted by Morocco) will be postponed.
- 16. With these comments, the Group takes note of document under this agenda item (GOV/2020/28-GC(64)/5).

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING, 28 SEPTEMBER 2020

DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARIA CLEOFE NATIVIDAD, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Agenda item 5: Any other business

Madam Chairperson, [H.E. Ambassador Ms. Heidi HULAN, Permanent Representative of Canada]

- 1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China to thank the outgoing Chair, Her Excellency Ambassador Mikaela KUMLIN GRANIT, Permanent Representative of Sweden, for her successful Chairmanship of the Board of Governors between the 63rd and 64th sessions of the General Conference.
- 2. The Group of 77 commends Ambassador KUMLIN GRANIT and her team for their dedication and hard work over the past year. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavors.
- 3. The Group would also like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation to the President of the General Conference, His Excellency Ambassador Azzeddine FARHANE of Morocco, for his excellent work and for his able stewardship of the 64th session of the General Conference.
- 4. The Group also thanks other officers and members of the General Committee of the 64th session of the General Conference for their work.

Madam Chairperson,

- 5. On behalf of the Group, I wish to congratulate you Madam Chair for assuming the chairmanship of the Board of Governors for the coming year. Our congratulations go also to your Vice-Chairs.
- 6. The G-77 and China is confident that the Board will remain in good and steady hands as we move forward with the work of the Agency. Rest assured that you have the full support of the Group.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



STATEMENT OF THE G-77 AND CHINA DURING THE MEETING OF THE IAEA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE STARTING ON 16 NOVEMBER 2020 DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARIA CLEOFE NATIVIDAD, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Agenda Item 2: Technical Cooperation: The Agency's proposed Programme for 2021

[Not to read] The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the Agency's Proposed Technical Cooperation Program for 2021, as contained in documents GOV/2020/44, as well as Deputy Director General, Mr. Dazhu Yang, and the staff of the Department of Technical Cooperation.

Madam Chair,

- 1. Firstly, the Group would like to thank you, Ambassador Hulan, for chairing under these adverse and challenging circumstances and to assure you of the Groups full support. The Group is of the view that this is a time for the international community to demonstrate its capability to work together in solidarity to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. Only though international solidarity will we be able to rise up to the challenges posed and not throw away our shot at successfully assisting Member States in building their capacity to respond efficiently to COVID-19.
- 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.
- 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(64)/RES/11. 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.

Madam Chair,

4. The Group notes that the implementation of the 2021 portion of the 2020–2021 TC programme remains unchanged from the budget figures provided in documents GOV/2019/47/Add.1 and GOV/2019/47/Add.2, The Group further notes that Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) target for 2021 is €89.6 million, as per the recommendation submitted

to the Board of Governors (GOV/2019/25). 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 €84,184,520 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.

- 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 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 welcomes the efforts exerted by the Secretariat to adapt to challenges brought by spread of COVID, including through rescheduling the work plan of the TCP cycle 2020-21, and the advancement of procurement planned under 2021 using resources from 2020. The Group requests to extend the implementation of the projects therein beyond their lifetime, with a view to ensure that the planned outcomes and objectives of these projects are achieved. The Group stresses that the resources of the TC programme shall not be affected in any way by the current situation and that the goal of achieving sufficient, assured and predictable resources shall be always our priority during the preparation of the Program and Budget 2022-23.
- 7. The Group notes that the total Footnote-a/Activities over the last two years indicates that the current level of resources available falls far short of the resources needed. The Group further stresses the importance of maintaining an adequate balance between the Agency's promotional and non-promotional activities.
- 8. The Group reaffirms its view that the above-mentioned factors be taken into account in the preparations of the Programme and Budget 2022-23. The Group requests the Secretariat to provide information on efforts to address the gap between needed resources and available resources for 2022 and beyond.

Madam Chair,

9. 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/2020/44, and requests that its views and comments be duly reflected in the official records of the TACC meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda Item 3: Zoonotic Diseases Integrated Action initiative (ZODIAC)

Madam Chair,

1. The Group welcomes the Zoonotic Diseases Integrated Action initiative (ZODIAC), approved by 64th the General Conference earlier this year and would like to underline its strong support for the initiative.

- 2. The Group welcomes the focus on inclusivity through the involvement of all Member States in the development and implementation of ZODIAC, as outlined in Resolution GC/64/RES3. The Group believes in the importance of the implementation of the initiative in a systematic format, in line with the Resolution, as we move forward with continued dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat. In this regard, we thank the Secretariat for its continued engagement with Member States and its willingness to share information.
- 3. ZODIAC will be the largest project in the history of the Agency and the Group is fully convinced of its positive implications. In this regard, the Group would like to comment on the possible impact of this project on the implementation of other Technical Cooperation Projects. Accordingly, the Group underlines the need for careful discussion and implementation, in striving to avoid any adverse impact on other Technical Cooperation Projects, including unfunded projects in footnote a/. In this regard, we call on the Agency to focus on strengthening its efforts at mobilisation of additional resources.
- 4. With this, the Group welcomes the Proposed Technical Cooperation Project on 'Supporting National and Regional Capacity in Integrated Action for Control of Zoonotic Diseases, as contained in GOV/2020/37, and recommends its approval by the Board of Governors.

I thank you, Madam Chair.

Agenda item 4: Evaluation of technical cooperation activities in 2020

- 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 2020, as contained in document GOV/2020/46. The Group also thanks the OIOS for the technical briefing organized on November 10^{th} .
- 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.
- 3. The Group of 77 and China takes note of the presentation results of the three CLEAs undertaken in 2020, with the intention on helping to strengthen the management of TC activities through systematic solutions. In this regard, cognizant of the changed circumstances in particular due to the travel constraints around COVID-19, the Group would like to seek further clarifications regarding why three of the six planned CLEAs were completed. The Group would also like to reiterate the importance in receiving information on the criteria used by OIOS to select countries and thematic areas for evaluation.
- 4. The Group noted, positively, the decrease on the overall cost of OIOS's TC-related evaluation activities in 2020 (€569 371 in relation to €695 005 in 2019). 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.
- 5. 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. 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.

- 6. The Group notes with concern some of the shortcomings, as revealed in the Report, of the outputs and outcomes as defined in the Logical Framework Matrices. The Group requests the Secretariat to address these issues accordingly.
- 7. The Group further notes that the Report on the evaluation of technical cooperation activities in 2020 has made 13 recommendations, which were all accepted by the Secretariat. The Group would like to draw attention, on the matter that specific efforts are needed to be taken to incorporate a gender equality perspective within outcomes and indicators and requests the secretariat to continue its efforts to improve this situation. The Group takes note that the Secretariat is already working on the implementation of the 13 recommendations made.
- 8. The Group further takes note of the 9 overdue Programme Evaluation Recommendations as well as the 40 overdue Internal Audit Recommendations, taking into consideration that they are not related to TC activities, and requests the Secretariat to continue working towards their implementation, as appropriate.
- 9. The Group notes with concern that from the CLEAs conducted in 2020, there is still limited strategic efforts from the Agency to adequately seek or strengthen partnerships with relevant country offices of other UN organizations.
- 10. With these comments, the Group of 77 and China takes note of the Evaluation of Technical Cooperation Activities in 2020, as contained in document GOV/2020/46, and requests that its views and comments be duly reflected in the official records of the TACC meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)



Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the 63rd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 2-6 March 2020, delivered by

H.E. Ambassador Ganeson SIVAGURUNATHAN, Permanent Representative of Malaysia

Vienna, 2nd March 2020

H.E. Ambassador Mansoor Ahmad Khan,

H.E. Madam Ghada Waly,

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to speak today on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

- 1. The Group of 77 and China felicitates Ambassador Khan on his election as the Chair of the 63rd 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 gladly welcomes H.E. Madam Waly, the new Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Director General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, and looks forward to working with you to achieve more progress toward better policies and programs to effectively address and counter the world drug problem.
- 3. The Group also appreciates the Secretariat for carrying out the preparatory work for this session.

Mr. Chair,

- 4. The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation for the commendable efforts of the Chairperson in finding a way forward through informal consultations with Member States on the WHO recommendations, on the changes in the scope of control of substances of cannabis and cannabis-related substances.
- 5. The Group calls upon all States to duly consider the potential social, economic, administrative, legal and other implications of WHO's recommendations on control of cannabis and cannabis-related substances, where applicable.
- 6. The Group reiterates that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective, concrete and increased 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 well-being of all humanity.

- 7. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations Development System and avoiding restrictive measures and actions 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 authorities from the law enforcement, criminal justice, health, education and other relevant authorities, 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 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. The Group reiterates the need for strengthening international cooperation, in this regard, and also reaffirms 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 developments oriented and balanced drug control policies and programmes.

Mr. Chair,

- 12. The Group notes with concern the harmful effects of the increasing non-medical use of Tramadol and invites Member States to collect and share data in order to facilitate the consideration of placing of the substance under international control to prevent its diversion for illicit use while ensuring its access and availability for medical and scientific purposes.
- 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 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 welcomes the adoption of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, "Strengthening our actions at the national, regional and international levels to accelerate the implementation of our joint commitments to address and counter the world drug problem".
- 15. 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 and the UNGASS 2016 outcome document in its entirety.
- 16. To effectively address and counter the world drug problem in light of the collective commitments, it is of critical importance to enhance international cooperation, at all levels, based on the established principle of common and shared responsibility, in particular with developing countries. In this context, the Group:
 - a. Highlights the need to further strengthen North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;
 - b. Calls upon the international community to provide sufficient resources including financial resources, concrete capacity-building assistance, technology and equipment to developing countries, upon request, to assist them in building their capacities;
 - c. Calls for enhancing efforts to address drug abuse prevention, including in educational settings;
 - d. Urges the international community to provide support, upon request, to law enforcement, criminal justice, health and education authorities of the developing countries to assist them in addressing the persistent and emerging challenges:
 - e. Calls for the provision of assistance to developing countries, upon request, for improving the availability, access and affordability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion;

- f. Calls for enhanced international cooperation to promote inclusive economic growth and support initiatives that contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development as well as poverty eradication;
- g. Calls upon the international community to support sustainable and long-term alternative development programs, including preventive alternative development, which are part of sustainable crop control strategies, taking into account the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;
- h. Invites Member States to take appropriate measures to address the diversion and illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in as well as misuse of precursors, including acetic anhydride under international control and to tackle the misuse of pre-precursors and substitute or alternative precursors for illicit drug manufacturing;
- i. Emphasizes that international assistance to developing countries, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility, should be without any conditions;
- j. Emphasizes the need for strengthened international cooperation to tackle money-laundering related to drug trafficking, in particular by effectively identifying, tracing, freezing, seizing, confiscating and returning assets and proceeds of crime.

Mr. Chair,

- 17. The Group emphasizes the need for sustainable and sufficient resources for the UNODC to enhance its capacity-building initiatives, programmes and activities particularly for developing countries, including for the provision of the equipment and technical assistance.
- 18. The Group particularly reiterates its growing concern that concrete and sustainable efforts are still lacking to enhance representation of developing countries in the staff composition of the Office, particularly developing Member States that are unrepresented and underrepresented in the Secretariat of UNODC. The situation at the professional, senior and policy-making levels is of notable concern given the lack of representation of developing countries. We call on UNODC to take serious and concrete measures to improve the representation of developing countries in line with General Assembly resolutions.
- 19. The Group expresses the need to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including, trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and money-laundering, and, in some cases, terrorism including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, by using an integrated, multidisciplinary approach, such as through promoting and supporting reliable data collection, research and, as appropriate, intelligence- and analysis-sharing to ensure effective policymaking and interventions.

- 20. 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.
- 21. 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.
- 22. 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.



Group of 77 and China at the third formal FinGov meeting on 17 June 2020 delivered by H. E. Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan, Permanent Representative of Malaysia

Excellencies, Distinguished Co-Chairs,

- 1. The Group highly appreciates the introductory remarks of H. E. Madam Ghada Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and pledge to work with her to achieve more positive progress toward better policies and programs and to effectively improve the governance and financial situation of UNODC.
- 2. The Group sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Co-Chairs Ms. Natasha Pinheiro Agostini (Brazil) and Mr. Ignacio Baylina Ruíz (Spain) in enhancing consultations with Member States to work on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC and its programmes.
- 3. The Group thanks the Secretariat for the preparation for this meeting.
- 4. The Group is pleased that UNODC among other VBOs has adopting measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic in compliance with the measures of the Austrian Government and appreciates that despite the difficulties and challenges of the current situation the UNODC has managed to find ways to operate in order to carry out its responsibilities as mandated.
- 5. In this regard, the group reiterates its disposition to work closely with UNODC to find solutions for conducting our work during the second half of the year 2020 and recall that the group's point of view has been shared in a letter addressed to the VBOs dated 27 May 2020, which include its proposals and observations. As for UNODC meetings we suggest that priority should be given to those meetings that will make decisions on administrative and financial aspects including political matters for UNODC to be able to fulfill its mandates and for the service delivery to Member States upon request.
- 6. The Group emphasizes that, all decisions taken for this period of time to convene some essential meetings virtually and to limit on holding large in-person meeting because of the situation posed by the pandemic, should be temporary and not making any precedent and substitute the established methods of work of UNODC. The group encourages the secretariat of UNODC to continue their work that based on recognized rules and practices including the adhering utmost transparency, objectivity, inclusiveness and close inter- states consultations within its mandates. It's also important for the group, inter alia, other issues raised in the letter of the group to the VBOs that virtual and hybrid meetings, especially those ones that need to negotiate outcomes and decisions, should have a clear view on rules of procedures and methods of work. In addition to that we would like to emphasize that there will be outcomes and decisions that would be difficult to discuss in a virtual format and in this regard, it's important to identify timely dates in which in person consultations can be held.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

7. The Group reiterates the significance of the open-ended intergovernmental working group of FINGOV and hopes that it will continue to play its active role and to address the concerns of the Member States regarding the governance and financial situation of UNODC and its programmes.

- 8. The Group considers of utmost importance the full and timely implementation of CND Resolution 62/9 and CCPCJ Resolution 28/4, in which it was asked from the Office, inter alia, a set of information on diverse topics within a concrete timeframe. The Group is cognizant of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, but at the same time highlights the importance for Member States to receive the information requested in a timely manner, in order to guide the work of UNODC and take corrective measures on persistent concerns.
- 9. The Group reiterates the importance of adequate, predictable and stable funding for UNODC in order for the Office to enhance provision of technical assistance, in particular to developing countries, upon request. In the same vein, the Group emphasizes the need for efficient utilization of such resources to ensure long-term sustainability. The Group also notes with concern the challenges facing UNODC due to the shortfall in general purpose funding and underlining funding trends affecting the office ability to efficiently and independently uphold core programmatic functions, in particular normative work and research.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

- 10. The Group requests the Executive Director of UNODC to achieve equal representation of women at senior and policy-making levels, and to report on the progress of such measures to the Commissions. The Group also underlines the importance of respecting and implementing the principle of equitable geographical representation in the composition of UNODC staff, in line with the UN Charter. We reaffirm that the principle of equitable geographical representation should apply to posts within the UN Secretariat regardless of the source of funding.
- 11. The Group particularly reiterates its growing concern that concrete and sustainable efforts are still lacking to enhance representation of developing countries in the staff composition of the Office, particularly developing Member States that are unrepresented and underrepresented in the Secretariat of UNODC. The situation at the professional, senior and policy-making levels is of notable concern given the lack of representation of developing countries. We call on UNODC to take comprehensive measures to improve the representation of developing countries in line with General Assembly resolutions.
- 12. The Group takes note of the information provided by the UNODC regarding their efforts to achieve geographical diversity. The Group renews its call for UNODC to provide a comprehensive Action Plan for equitable geographical representation in the composition of UNODC staff, and calls on the UNODC to make this document available to Member States as a matter of priority. Hence, the Group calls on the Executive Director to improve meaningful efforts to enhance equitable geographical representation and to increase the representation of developing countries in the Secretariat. The Group reiterates its call for FINGOV to continue on a regular basis and under a standing agenda item to review the progress made by the Office in improving representation from developing countries.
- 13. Finally, the Group emphasize the importance of multilingualism and recognize the concrete steps made so far to make available documents, resolutions and decisions on the website of the Office in all six official languages of the United Nations. The Group encourages UNODC to continue these efforts, in order to achieve the full implementation of the request made in this regard by the CND and the CCPCJ.

Thank you distinguished Co-Chairs.



G-77 and China Statement during Open-ended intergovernmental expert group of the Conference of the Parties established in accordance with Conference resolution 9/1, International Expert Group (IEG) held from 13-15 July 2020

Agenda item 1

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

- 1. It is my pleasure to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on the Opened International Experts Group established in accordance with COP resolution 9/1 to gladly express the appreciation of the group to the Chair of this Expert Group. The Group would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation for this meeting.
- 2. The Group commends UNODC among other VBO's for adopting the measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic in compliance with the measures of the Austrian Government.
- 3. The Group would like to express its sincere appreciation for the President of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention against Transitional Organized Crime on his preliminary response to some of the issues on the organization of work that had been raised in the letter of the Group on 6 July 2020.
- 4. The Group welcomes the adoption of the Hybrid/In-Person format for the ongoing second meeting of the open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group of the Conference of the Parties established in accordance with COP resolution 9/1 to be held from 13 to 15 July 2020 in the Vienna International Centre.
- 5. The Group calls for the expansion of the number of participants from Permanent Missions of States parties beyond the indicated limit of 80, should the number of nominations require it, subject to the limitations in terms of time for preparation, as well as health, safety and space constraints in the venue.
- 6. The Group affirms that any limitation on the number of delegations allowed to participate in-person in a meeting shall not set a precedent for any future meetings.
- 7. The Group stresses the need for all Member States to be granted the opportunity to access and fully participate in all meetings organized by UNODC on an equal basis.
- 8. The Group further underlines the necessity of holding timely and inclusive consultations with Member States regarding the format of any future meetings, and to inform Permanent Missions of the format and working methods of such meetings no less than two weeks in advance of every meeting.
- 9. The Group believes such considerations are essential to ensure that intergovernmental meetings are held in line with long-standing principles of the UN as well as existing rules of procedure, and with full and equal participation of all Member States.
- 10. Finally, the G-77 and China requests that this statement be reflected in the report of this session of the Experts Group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



G-77 and China statement during the Expert Group Meeting to Conduct a Comprehensive Study of the Problem of Cybercrime, from 27-29 July 2020 delivered by Ms. Safa Shabat, Permanent Mission of Palestine

Agenda item 2: International Cooperation and item 3: Prevention

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

- 1. It's my pleasure to speak on bellhalf of the Group of 77 and China on the occasion of the sixth session of the Open-ended Expert Group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime.
- 2. The Group of 77 and China reiterates its serious concern about cybercrime and further recognizes that preventing and combatting cybercrime effectively will contribute to the building of a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyber space, which is a strong driving force for social and economic development, as well as improvement of individual wellbeing.
- 3. The Group welcomes the opportunity for governmental experts to exchange views on international cooperation and prevention to combat cybercrime through this Experts Group meeting.
- 4. The Group supports the essential role of the United Nations in the fight against cybercrime and reiterates its support for the adoption of relevant General Assembly resolutions, and along these lines, appreciates the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime. The Group takes note of the outcome of its previous meetings, including the preliminary recommendations put forward and calls upon Member States to continue supporting the Expert Group with the focus on the completion of its work in line with its 2018-2021 work plan.
- 5. The Group recognizes the complex nature of cybercrime and will continue to actively participate in the implementation of UN GA 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, taking into full consideration existing national, regional and international instruments and efforts at the national, regional and international levels on combating the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes, in particular the work and outcomes of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group to conduct a comprehensive study on cybercrime". The Group supports the elaboration of a convention that takes into account, inter alia, the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries.
- 6. The Group recognizes that international cooperation is important for gathering and sharing electronic evidence in the context of cross-border investigations and the need for fast and effective responses to requests for mutual legal assistance related to preserving and

obtaining electronic evidence. The Group also emphasizes that the principles of sovereignty and reciprocity should be respected in the process.

- 7. The Group likewise encourages Member States to continue to include effective prevention measures at the national and international levels and focus on proactive activities such as raising awareness about the risks of cybercrime and the likelihood of prosecution and punishment for offenders and efforts to prevent further crime by identifying and disrupting ongoing illicit online activities.
- 8. The Group regrets that due to the existence of "digital gap", some developing countries lack the capacity to prevent, detect and combat cybercrime, and are more vulnerable in the face of cybercrime challenges. The Group also strongly encourages UNODC to continue providing technical assistance, upon request, to prevent and counter cybercrime.
- 9. The Group of 77 and China likewise encourages UNODC to further provide capacity-building and training programs in combating cybercrime to national governmental experts, to strengthen capacities to detect and investigate cybercrime. Such capacity-building should address the needs of developing countries, focus on the vulnerabilities of each country in order to provide tailor-made technical assistance and promote the exchange of the most up-to-date knowledge in the best interests of the practionners and stake holders.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



G-77 and China Statement during the tenth session of the Conference of the parties of UNTOC 12-16 October 2020, delivered by H.E. Ambassador Maria Cleofe Natividad, Permanent Representative of the Philippines

Mr. President.

- 1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It is my pleasure to express our sincere congratulations on your election as the President of the 10th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. I also wish to extend our heartfelt felicitations to the members of the Bureau for their election. Rest assured of our full support and cooperation for the successful conclusion of this Session.
- 2. The Group would like to take this opportunity to thank Italy for their leadership of the Conference for the past two years.
- 3. The Group also wishes to thank the Secretariat for the organization and preparation for this session of the Conference.

Mr. President,

- 4. In order to respect the limitation of time I will have to read parts of the Group's statement and we would like to ask the Rapporteur to reflect in the report of the Conference all elements that we submitted in our statement.
- 5. The Group of 77 and China celebrates with you this year the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 55/25, in which the Assembly adopted the Convention and the Protocols thereto. Through these twenty years, the group focused its efforts to maintain the principles, goals and spirit of The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the protocols thereto. We are certain that this important international legal instrument is the corner stone of the international cooperation in the fight against the serious and growing problem of transnational organized crime. On this occasion the group highlights the importance of promoting ratifications of the UNTOC and the Protocols thereto, which will allow Member States to strengthen cooperation in addressing this scourge.
- 6. We also acknowledge the efforts made by the Parties in promoting the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and encourage all Parties to continue to strengthen such efforts.

Mr. President,

7. The Group recognizes the hard work and commitment that culminated with the adoption of resolution 9/1 of 19 October 2018 in which the Conference adopted the Procedures and Rules for the Functioning of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocols thereto. Now that the review process of the implementation is ready to start, the Group highlights the importance of its implementation in accordance with its Guiding principles and characteristics, as set out in the Annex of resolution 9/1.

Mr. President,

8. The Group affirms the important work of the open-ended intergovernmental Working Groups on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants, Firearms, Technical Assistance, and International Cooperation and we appreciate the continuous assistance of the working groups to the conference.

9. The Group wishes to underscore that the full, balanced and effective implementation of Convention and its Protocols requires a renewed commitment to fully implement UNTOC's international cooperation and technical assistance obligations. The Group considers that efforts to counter all modalities of transnational organized crime should be comprehensive and integrated, taking into account the dimensions of prevention and effective law enforcement against this crime, as well as assistance to the victims, and take into account the observation and respect for the rule of law and the promotion and protection of all human rights.

Mr. President,

- 10. The Group wishes to express its concern for the illicit trafficking of cultural property and related offences, including the growing involvement of organized criminal groups, and terrorist groups, which continues to inflict increasing damage to the cultural heritage of our nations, and thus, to part of our identities. In this regard, the Group stresses the need to enhance efforts to combat this crime and to implement, in accordance with domestic legal frameworks, as well as the International Guidelines for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses With Respect to trafficking in cultural property and other related offenses, adopted by the General Assembly.
- 11. The Group recognizes the complex nature of cybercrime and will continue to actively participate in the implementation of UN GA 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, taking into full consideration existing national, regional and international instruments and efforts at the national, regional and international levels on combating the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes, in particular the work and outcomes of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group to conduct a comprehensive study on cybercrime". The Group supports the elaboration of a convention that takes into account, inter alia, the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries.
- 12. We would also like to underscore the challenges posed by emerging forms and new dimensions of transnational organized crime, such as illegal mining in precious metals, smuggling of commercial goods, trafficking in wildlife and timber and crimes in the fishing industry that have a significant impact on the environment and/or the development of the States.
- 13. The Group remains strongly convinced that upholding multilateralism, including supporting an effective United Nations Development System and avoid imposing 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 transnational organized crimes.

Mr. President,

- 14. The Group reaffirms the need for enhancing international cooperation, particularly in the area of mutual legal assistance, exchange of information, extradition and identification, confiscation, seizure, recovery and repatriation of proceeds of crime, in accordance with domestic legislation, with the aim to contribute to countering the threats posed by transnational organized crime.
- 15. The Group firmly believes that technical assistance is a key and crosscutting issue throughout the Convention, and its provision is an essential part of the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention. Requesting State Parties should be provided with technical assistance including through the UNODC, especially for the benefit of developing countries. To this end, appropriate funding mechanisms need to be developed. The Group also highlights

the value of the expertise existing in developing countries in combating transnational organized crime.

16. The Group also highlights the importance of international cooperation, including South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to enhance capabilities of Member States to implement crime prevention and criminal justice programs in this framework. In this context, we would like to underline the importance of supporting capacity building and the provision of adequate, long-term, sustainable, effective and demand driven technical assistance in collaboration with UNODC. Accordingly, sufficient, stable and predictable funding is necessary.

Mr. President,

- 17. The Group emphasizes the need for enhancing meaningful and result-oriented international cooperation in the area of asset recovery, and the seizure and confiscation of proceeds of crime and their unconditional return to countries of origin, through all available legal mechanisms, including civil and administrative proceedings, non-trial resolutions and settlements that have proceeds of crime for confiscation and return.
- 18. The Group highlights once more the importance of adequate financial and administrative support for full, efficient and effective implementation of the activities assigned to the UNODC. Additionally, assuring a sufficient and stable funding to the Conference, Mechanism of the Review and to UNODC is essential to promote programmes and projects which, at the request of the benefiting country, provides the proper technical assistance to implement the Convention. The Group expresses concern over the increasing dependence of UNODC on extra budgetary resources, and therefore, reiterates that the core activities of the Office should be funded from the regular budget.

Mr. President,

- 19. The Group acknowledges the increasing links between transnational organized crime and other illicit activities; including drug related crime, corruption, money laundering and illicit financial flows, as well as the links that, in some cases, exist with terrorist crimes and their financing. Accordingly, the Group reaffirms the need for enhanced bilateral, regional and international cooperation in the area of exchange of information, extradition and mutual legal assistance, in accordance with domestic legislation.
- 20. On the particular issue of prevention of terrorism, and in order to face this challenge, the Group calls for strengthening international responses, in accordance with national legislation inter-alia, through more effective implementation and application of the Convention, and all applicable regional and international counter-terrorism legal instruments, as well as the balanced and effective implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. The Group calls upon UNODC and requested Member States to continue to assist requesting Member States with technical assistance to build capacity and strengthen cooperation at sub-regional, regional and international levels, in order to effectively respond to the new strategies employed by terrorist organizations. The Group strongly reaffirms 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, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law, refugee and humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

21. The Group acknowledges that sustainable development and the rule of law are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing. In this regard, the Group emphasizes the need for the, balanced and effective implementation of the 2030 agenda, recognizing its integrated, indivisible, global nature and universal application.

Mr. President,

22. Finally, this session of the Conference comes at a time in which our world faces the pandemic of COVID-19 among other various challenges that need all of our efforts and collaboration to treat in an efficient and constructive manners. In this regard, the Group 77 and China appreciates that UNODC among other VBOs has adopting measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic and encourage it to continue its work to face the difficulties and challenges of the current situation and to assist State Parties in confronting the particular challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the area of combating transnational organized crime.

Thank you, Mr. President.



Statement by the Group of 77 and China at the joint meeting of the reconvened 63rd session of the CND and the reconvened 29th session of the CCPCJ on 3 December 2020, delivered by H.E. Ambas sador Maria Cleofe Natividad, Permanent Representative of the Philippines

Agenda item 3

Distinguished Co-Chairs, Excellencies,

- 1. It is my pleasure to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on the occasion of the joint meeting of the 29th reconvened session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the 63rd reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).
- 2. The Group appreciates Ambassador Khan from Pakistan and Ambassador Marcondes from Brazil for their co-chairpersonship of the joint meeting of the two Commissions.
- 3. The Group reiterates the significance of the 'open-ended intergovernmental working group to improve the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime' or FINGOV. The Group sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Co-Chairs Ms. Natasha Pinheiro Agostini (Brazil) and Mr. Ignacio Baylina Ruíz (Spain) in enhancing consultations with Member States to work on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC and its programmes.
- 4. Now that we are going to start consultations on the future of FINGOV, 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. We all shall strive to take full advantage of these consultations for strengthening its methods of work, its agenda, and for making it even more dynamic. The Group welcomes the top management engagement with FINGOV, particularly the participation of the Executive Director, Madame Waly, in some of its meetings, and encourage the continuation and strengthening of this practice, since this allows timely and dynamic responsiveness to the needs and concerns of States, particularly in times of rapid change.
- 5. The Group considers of utmost importance the full and timely implementation of CND Resolution 62/9 and CCPCJ Resolution 28/4, as well as the Resolution on Budget Implementation approved today by the two Commissions. The Group is cognizant of the progress made towards their implementation and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but at the same time underlines that mandates given to the Office in those resolutions are yet to be fully fulfilled. In this regard, the Group attaches great importance for having a meaningful, well planned and structured FINGOV's 2021 work plan, , in order to receive timely information that enables Member States guide the work of UNODC and take corrective measures on persistent concerns.
- 6. The Group reiterates the importance of adequate, predictable and stable funding for UNODC in order for the Office to enhance provision of technical assistance, in particular to developing countries, upon request. In the same vein, the Group emphasizes the need for efficient utilization of such resources to ensure long-term sustainability. The Group also notes

with concern the challenges facing UNODC due to the United Nations liquidity crises, the shortfall in general purpose funding and underlining funding trends affecting the Office ability to efficiently and independently uphold core programmatic functions, in particular normative work and research.

- 7. The Group takes note of the draft report on the implementation of the consolidated budget for 2020-2021, and affirms the need for Member States to be fully involved in the elaboration of such documents throughout the process leading towards their approval and adoption, in particular prior to the publication of the draft consolidated budget. The Group also takes note of the Programme Plan and Budget Document for 2022. The Group stresses that the consolidated budget as well as the programme budget must be fully in line with the guidance provided by the Commissions and must be prepared and presented with full transparency and in a timely manner.
- 8. The Group requests the Secretariat to keep Member States regularly informed and engaged regarding the implementation, effects and implications of the UN reform process on the Office's work, including the UN Development System Reform, and the UN Management System Reform and requests the Executive Director to report to the upcoming sessions of the Commissions on this issue. So far, progress has been made, but more systematic, concrete and friendly readable information is needed, not only on UNODC's headquarters efforts and implications, but specially on how these reforms have affected and improve its work on the field.
- 9. The Group reiterates that the funding model of UNODC should, inter alia, not hinder the field activities of the Office or affect the scope of delivery of technical assistance. The Group requests the Office to engage with and provide timely information to Member States on the implementation of the funding model and its impact on the work of the Office, including, but not limited to, its ability to deliver technical assistance to Member States upon their request.
- 10. The Group would also like to emphasize the need for regular dialogue and close consultations between Member States and UNODC regarding the latter's ongoing and planned research activities at all its stages. The UNODC's research work should be based on clear and prior mandates and policy guidance provided by the Governing Bodies,
- 11. The Group welcomes the presentations made by the Executive Director of UNODC's draft Strategy for 2021-2025, and underscores the need to follow its further drafting and future implementation and action plan by rooting all endeavors on the needs, priorities and guidance given by Member States. The Strategy's relevance and future will greatly depend on its responsiveness, adaptability and capacity to add value, particularly on UNODC's work on the field. The Group recognizes the need to decisively move forward towards its final version, but at the same time underscores the need for Member States to properly analyze and provide feedback to the Secretariat with sufficient time and after more in-depth presentations.

Distinguished Co-chairs,

- 12. The Group requests the Executive Director of UNODC to achieve equal representation of women from developing countries, particularly at senior and policymaking levels, and to report on the progress of such measures to the Commission.
- 13. The Group reaffirms that the principle of equitable geographical representation, which has been enshrined in the UN Charter, should apply to posts within the UN Secretariat regardless of the source of funding, and underline the importance of respecting and implementing this principle in the composition of UNODC staff.

- 14. The Group particularly reiterates its concern that concrete and sustainable efforts are still lacking to enhance representation of developing countries in the staff composition of the Office, noting that developing Member States are unrepresented and underrepresented in the Secretariat of UNODC, particularly at the professional, senior and policy-making levels. The Group urges UNODC to take serious and concrete measures to improve the representation of developing countries in line with General Assembly resolutions.
- 15. The Group, therefore, calls on the Executive Director to redouble efforts to meaningfully enhance equitable geographical representation and increase the representation of developing countries in UNODC's Secretariat, particularly at the professional, senior and policy-making levels, including through, the establishment of a balanced geographical representation team at the Executive Director's office, and to report on the progress of such measures to the Commissions.
- 16. The Group reiterates its call for FINGOV to continue on a regular basis and under a standing agenda item to review the progress made by the Office in addressing these issues of gaps in equitable and balanced representation.
- 17. Finally, this session of the Commissions comes at a time when our world faces the pandemic of COVID-19. While the Group welcomes the efforts made by all parties to make the most of the current situation, we also recognize that these challenging times are a call for an early preparation of the Commissions for the next regular meetings in 2021. The Group is of the firm belief that we cannot further delay 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. The Group, therefore, calls on 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.

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)



G-77 and China statement during the 54th session of Working Group B, 17 – 28 February 2020, delivered by H. E. Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan, Permanent Representative of Malaysia

Mr. Chairman.

- 1. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Dr. Joachim Schulze, conducting our work in this 54th Session of Working Group B together with the Vice-Chairs and Task Leaders, and would like to assure you of its full cooperation and support.
- 2. We would also like to thank Dr. Lassina Zerbo, the Executive Secretary, for his opening remarks and take note of his report on verification related activities for the period from July to December 2019. The Group also takes note of the documents prepared for this session by the Provisional Technical Secretariat's (PTS).

Mr. Chairman,

- 3. The Group stresses the need of all possible efforts to achieve the universalization of the Treaty. The Group also stresses the need of an early entry into force of the CTBT, with the ultimate goal to eliminate nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
- 4. 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, as well as robust while efficient.

Mr. Chairman,

- 5. On specific verification related activities conducted by the PTS, as contained in the Executive Secretary's report, the Group 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 the timeliness requirements for Reviewed products met more than 99%.
 - b. Regarding the IMS, the Group takes note of the activities undertaken by the PTS during the reporting period, in particular the progress achieved regarding 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.

- 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. The Group would like to affirm 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, must respect the territorial integrity of states.
- e. Regarding the International Data Center Progressive Commissioning, the Group takes note of Experiment 4 conducted from 16-27 September 2019, including the participation of experts from developing countries, and would like to emphasize the importance of continued involvement of experts in conducting the experiments. We look 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.
- f. The Group believes that appropriate time should be allocated for implementing the recommendations emanating from the first round of experiments. The Group also believes that Working Group B should have enough time to consider the relevant reports and recommendations of the first round in order to effectively evaluate the technical needs and specifications of the second round tests.
- g. The Group takes note with appreciation of the progress made under the OSI action plan for 2016-2019, that successfully completed all 43 projects at the end of 2019.
- h. We welcome the efforts by the PTS to detect the problems in on-site inspection in challenging environments, and the OSI Workshop-24 as a starting point in this area. During the Workshop, challenges regarding issues such as search logic, effectiveness of techniques, functional capability of inspectors, equipment specifications and related provisions in the draft OSI Operational Manual were identified. As the current process for eliminating deficiencies has focused more on shallow underground tests under mild environmental conditions, the group requests the PTS to address the abovementioned issues.
- 6. We take note of the information by which the Executive Secretary reports of the build-up of two IMS stations and one IMS radionuclide laboratory during July-December 2019 in Argentina, Niger, and South Africa.

Mr. Chairman,

- 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 in this regard. 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 in the national, regional and international level.
- 8. The Group expresses its support for the pilot project, which facilitates the participation of experts from developing countries in the WGB sessions, which resulted in the selection of six new experts from Libya, Mexico, Namibia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan. 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 encourages the PTS to focus on the role of younger generations, including full engagement with experienced scientists. The Group stresses that the Commission should offer States Signatories, in particular developing States, a wide range of training courses and workshops aimed at strengthening capacities in areas relevant to the Treaty. Capacity building activities should also include the provision of hardware and software to NDCs, especially those in developing countries, enabling them to access and analyze IMS data and International Data Centre (IDC) products.

Mr. Chairman,

- 10. 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. In this regard, we encourage Working Group B to contribute to improving such representation among its officers in accordance with the abovementioned principles.
- 11. 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.



G-77 and China statement during the 57th session of Working Group A, 1 – 2 June 2020 delivered by H. E. Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan, Permanent Representative of Malaysia

Madam Chairperson,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China is deeply saddened by the loss of so many lives globally due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and expresses its solidarity with all countries as they battle with the effects of the pandemic. Cooperation to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, including through a multilateral approach, should be strengthened and intensified. The Group welcomes the Organization's business continuity, flow of data and data products despite restrictions caused by Covid-19 and express its gratitude for the efforts of the PTS in this regard.
- 2. The Group takes into account the ends of term of the Executive Secretary, the Chair of the Working Group B and members of the Advisory Group, and would like to assure the Chair of its readiness to support efforts in the Preparatory Commission to reach conclusion of these matters.
- 3. The Group is of the view that, this is a time for the international community, to demonstrate its capability to work together in solidarity to mitigate the impacts of COVID19. The international community must unite in its efforts to ensure access to scientific guidance, training, equipment, essential medical supplies, and concrete life-saving services to countries in greatest need and in regions where the full impact is yet to be felt.
- 4. The Group considers that at this juncture cooperation and solidarity should prevail among nations, and calls upon countries to ensure that their measures will not have a negative impact on the capacity of States to respond efficiently to COVID 19.
- 5. The Group would like to thank Ambassador Nada Kruger, for chairing the 57th Session of Working Group A. The Group takes this opportunity to renew to you, Ambassador, the assurances of its full support and cooperation.
- 6. The Group would also like to thank Dr. Lassina Zerbo for his opening remarks. The Group takes note of the Report of the Executive Secretary on verification related activities for the period July to December 2019, the Annual Report 2019 and the Report of the Executive Secretary on non-verification-related activities for the period January to March 2020.
- 7. The Group would also like to express its appreciation to the PTS for preparing the documents. The Group would like to reaffirm the importance for States Signatories to receive all the documents well in advance of the sessions of the Preparatory Commission and its subsidiary bodies, no later than 4 weeks before the corresponding sessions, as well as in time for the meetings of the Advisory Group.

- 8. As we are facing a unique situation, given the restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the issues that should get priority in virtual meetings include the meetings that will make decisions on the administrative and financial aspects for the PTS to be able to fulfil its mandate.
- 9. The Group takes note of the recent report of the Advisory Group at its 54th session and appreciates the recommendations contained therein.
- 10. The Group welcomes the unqualified opinion of the External Auditor and seizes this opportunity to express its appreciation for the work done by the Auditor General of the State Audit Office of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Madam Chairperson,

- 11. The Group takes note of the 2018-2019 Programme and Budget Performance Report provided by the PTS. The Group also takes note of the 2021 budget proposal: initial draft dated on the 19th of February 2020, which proposes updates to the 2021 preliminary budget estimates of the approved 2020 2021 Programme and Budget, and would like to reiterate some of its earlier positions and make the following comments:
 - a. The Group appreciates the reprioritization of saving by the PTS, but would like to reiterate the importance of implementing a balance between the priorities of different States Signatories and not jeopardizing the efforts towards effectively strengthening capacity building and training activities.
 - b. The Group reiterates its position that capacity building activities should be funded in a sufficient manner through the Regular Budget.
 - c. The Group notes that some capacity building activities, including workshop and training, technical expert meetings, seminars and symposiums, was postponed due to COVID-19. The Group would like to highlight that those activities should be rescheduled as soon as circumstances allow.
- 12. The Group supports and appreciates the Commission's continued efforts to mobilize additional voluntary contributions for experts from developing countries to participate in official technical meetings of the Commission, and to ensure the rotation of the experts supported under this project, and encourages that this mobilization be maintained.
- 13. 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.

- 14. The Group encourages the PTS to continue its efforts to improve the representation of staff as well as gender balance in the PTS.
- 15. Finally, the Group looks forward to constructive deliberations and a timely conclusion of the tasks of this Working Group.



G-77 and China Statement during the 54th Session of the Preparatory Commission, 25 - 26 June 2020 delivered by H. E. Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan, Permanent Representative of Malaysia

- 1. The Group of 77 and China is pleased to see you, Ambassador Faouzia Mebarki, chairing the 54th Session of the Preparatory Commission. The Group takes this opportunity to renew to you, Ambassador, the assurances of its full support and cooperation.
- 2. The Group would also like to thank Dr. Lassina Zerbo for his opening remarks. The Group takes note of the Report of the Executive Secretary, including the nominations for appointment and reappointment of the Directors of the PTS.
- 3. The Group also thanks the Chair for conducting informal consultations in preparation for the Fifty-Fourth Session of the Preparatory Commission. The Group would like to reaffirm the importance for State Signatories to receive all the documents well in advance of the sessions of the Preparatory Commission and all other subsidiary bodies, no later than four weeks before the corresponding sessions.
- 4. The Group of 77 and China is deeply saddened by the loss of so many lives globally due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and expresses its solidarity with all countries as they battle with the effects of the pandemic. Cooperation to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, including through a multilateral approach, should be strengthened and intensified. The international community must unite in its efforts to ensure access to scientific guidance, training, equipment, essential medical supplies, and concrete life-saving services to countries in greatest need and in regions where the full impact is yet to be felt.
- 5. The Group supports efforts to ensure business continuity in the CTBTO Prepcom and also expresses gratitude to the PTS of all its efforts amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The Group would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the exceptional nature of the current session of the Commission, including the abbreviated agenda and virtual format, must not set a precedent for future sessions, nor be considered as an amendment to existing rules, norms or practices. The Group also highlights that the postponement of substantive discussions on a number of issues that were scheduled for this session is a one-time measure necessitated by unprecedented circumstances, and that postponed discussions and decisions, that were scheduled to take place at the 54th session, must now take place at the upcoming 55th session of the Prepcom, as a matter of priority.
- 6. The Group wishes to reiterate its full support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and stresses the need for an early entry into force of the CTBT, with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. The Group notes that there has not been further development since ratification by the Republic of

Zimbabwe in February 2019, which brought the total number of ratifying countries to 168. The Group stresses the need for all possible efforts to achieve the universality of the Treaty.

- 7. The Group expresses its deep concern on recent reports of the possible planning and preparation for nuclear test explosions by State Signatories. Any nuclear tests explosion, if carried out, would not only break the global moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions, but severely undermine the Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and international peace and security. The Group calls upon all of the States to observe nuclear test moratoria and to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to general and complete and irreversible nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control.
- 8. On Agenda item 3, the Group takes note of the report of Working Group A at its 57th session and its recommendations. We would like to thank the Chairperson of WGA, Ambassador Nada Kruger of Namibia, for leading the consultations that preceded the session, as well as for all her efforts in conducting the first virtual WGA meeting in order to achieve consensus despite challenges and difficulties caused by the pandemic.
- 9. The Group would like to reiterate some points expressed in the Working Group that decisions on financial matters should implement a balance between priorities of different State Signatories and not jeopardize the efforts towards effectively strengthening capacity building and training activities. Capacity building activities should also be funded sufficiently through the Regular Budget. In addition, those capacity building activities postponed due to COVID-19 should be rescheduled as soon as circumstances allow.
- 10. The Group looks forward to deliberation of the 2021 Budget update proposals and the remaining agenda of the 57th session which are incorporated in the Fifty-Eighth Session of Working Group A.
- 11. The Group also takes note of the report of the Working Group B at its Fifty-Fourth Session and thanks Mr. Joachim Schulze for the introduction of the report.
- 12. 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.
- 13. The Group takes note of the update on Current PTS led training activities relevant to the National Data Center staff and capacity building, and emphasizes the importance of geographical and gender representation in training and capacity building activities as well as workshops and expert meetings.
- 14. The Group takes note of the recent report of the Advisory Group at its 54th session and appreciates the recommendations contained therein. The Group also reiterates its appreciation for the efforts and expertise of the Advisory Group in providing necessary observation, conclusion, and recommendations on issues related to the associated administrative, budgetary and financial matters.

- 15. Taking into account the ends of term of the Executive Secretary, the Chairperson of the Working Group B and members of the Advisory Group, the G-77 and China would like to assure the Chair of its readiness to support efforts in the Preparatory Commission to reach conclusion of these matters. The Group expresses thanks to the Chair of the PrepCom for her extensive consultations on all the aforementioned items and looks forward to her report of progress on all of them respectively.
- 16. The Group reiterates that the Vienna spirit and the principle of consensus should prevail in any decision-making process.
- 17. Concerning the election and appointment of the Executive Secretary, The Group believes that the inclusive participation of all State Signatories in the election process is essential for the legitimacy of the entire process.
- 18. The Group would like to call attention to paragraph 5-b of the Annex to the Resolution establishing the Preparatory Commission (CTBT/MSS/RES/1) which states that the commission may permit Members to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Members. The Group is of the view that the extraordinary circumstances occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, in which many State Signatories are confronted by debilitating economic uncertainties, may warrant the invocation of the provisions of paragraph 5-b.
- 19. The Group takes note of the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, including the achievement of gender balance at the director level of the PTS. The Group takes this opportunity to continue encouraging the Executive Secretary in his efforts to significantly improve the gender balance and the equitable geographical distribution within the organization and at all levels of responsibility, bearing in mind the persistent underrepresentation of developing countries in the staff composition of the PTS, and the need to take appropriate measures to address this issue.
- 20. The Group looks forward to finalizing guidelines for holding extraordinary sessions of the Commission, as well as finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, at the soonest in-person session of the Commission, as a matter of priority. In this regard, the Group stresses that the postponement of the deadlines for those decisions is directly linked to the temporary changes in the format and modality of meetings of the Prepcom in light of the COVID-19 crisis.
- 21. Finally, the Group looks forward to a constructive deliberation and timely conclusion of the work of this Session of the Preparatory Commission.

Thank you, Madam Chair.



G-77 and China statement during the 55th session of Working Group B, 24 August – 4 September 2020, delivered by

H. E. Ambassador Maria Cleofe Natividad, Permanent Representative of the Philippines

Mr. Chairman,

- The Group of 77 and China would like to thank you for conducting our work at this 55th Session of Working Group B, together with the Vice-Chairs and Task Leaders, and would like to assure you of its full cooperation and support.
- 2. We would also like to thank Dr. Lassina Zerbo, the Executive Secretary, for his opening remarks, and take note of his report on verification-related activities for the period from January to June 2020. The Group also takes note of the documents prepared for this session by the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS).

Mr. Chairman,

- 3. The Group would like to underline the need for all possible efforts to achieve the universalization of the Treaty. The Group also stresses the need for an early entry into force of the CTBT, with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons and achieving general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
- 4. 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).
- 5. 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 remaining efficient.

Mr. Chairman,

- 6. On specific verification related activities conducted by the PTS, as contained in the Executive Secretary's report, the Group would like to make the following remarks:
 - a. The Group takes note of 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 operators and the PTS. The Group also notes that the data availability of certified IMS stations remained high and the timeliness requirements for Reviewed products were met more than 99% of the time.
 - b. Regarding the IMS, the Group takes note of the activities undertaken by the PTS during the reporting period, in particular the progress achieved regarding 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.

- 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. The Group would like to affirm 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, must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.
- e. 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. In this regard, the Group stresses that the postponement of the deadline for this decision is directly linked to the temporary changes in the format and modality of meetings of the PrepCom in light of the COVID-19 crisis.
- f. Regarding the International Data Center Progressive Commissioning, the Group takes note of the evaluation report on Experiment 4, and 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 also requested the PTS to focus more on the implementation of recommendations and issues for improvements obtained from evaluation reports of the first cycle of experiments, and to allocate appropriate time to this purpose. The Group also believes that WGB should have enough time to consider the relevant reports and recommendations of the first cycle in order to effectively evaluate the technical needs and specification of the second cycle test. 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 takes note of the progress made under the OSI action plan for 2016-2019, that completed all 43 projects by the end of 2019 and the OSI strategic policy and the 2020-2021 Programme and Budget. The Group is of the view that postponement of the exercise initial phase (BUE-IN) and BUE continuation phase should be rescheduled as soon as the situation permits.
- 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 a major upgrade and revalidation which is carried out with Signatory States, including the installation of a noble gas system in Mauritania.

Mr. Chairman,

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 in this regard. 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. In this regard, the Group welcomes the organization of the first NDC training for Arab speaking NDCs, which was held in Marsalam, Egypt in January 2020.
- 8. 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. The Group is convinced that such participation will greatly contribute to capacity building in our countries.
- 9. 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 55th session of WGB, and due to the lack of ability of virtual meetings to induce enough interactions between delegations, the Group suggests that the Agenda of this session of the WGB be streamlined to cover the most salient and must-do items, and discussions on substantive issues and documents that need to take some sort of decisions, be deferred to the next session of the WGB, when in person participation of the technical experts of delegation would be possible. The Group reiterates that WGB report must be procedural and duly considered by technical experts from States Signatories.
- 10. As part of its integrated capacity building activities, the Commission has to continue offering States Signatories, in particular developing States, a wide range of training courses and workshops aimed at strengthening capacities in areas relevant to the Treaty. Capacity building activities should also include the provision of hardware and software to NDCs, especially those in developing countries, enabling them to access and analyze IMS data and International Data Centre (IDC) products.
- 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. In this regard, we encourage Working Group B to contribute to improving such representation among its officers in accordance with the abovementioned principles.
- 12. The Group wishes to thank Dr. Joachim Schulze for all his efforts and wishes its best for all his future endeavors. The Group looks forward to the selection of WGB's new Chairperson in the next PrepCom, while respecting the principle of geographical rotation.
- 13. 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, Mr. Chairman.



G-77 and China statement during the Resumed Fifty-Fourth Session of the Preparatory Commission

9 – 10 September 2020 delivered by H. E. Ambassador Maria Cleofe Natividad Permanent Representative of the Philippines

Madam Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank Ambassador Faouzia Mebarki for chairing the resumed Fifty-Fourth Session of the Preparatory Commission to review the applications for the restoration of voting rights and would like to take this opportunity to renew to the Chair of the PrepCom the assurances of its full support and cooperation for the work of the PrepCom.
- 2. At this occasion, the Group would like to reiterate that taking into account the ends of term of the Executive Secretary, the Chairperson of the Working Group B and members of the Advisory Group, the G-77 and China would like to assure the Chair of its readiness to support efforts in the Preparatory Commission to reach conclusion of these matters.
- 3. The Group expresses thanks to the Chair of the PrepCom for her extensive consultations on all the aforementioned items and looks forward to her report of progress on all of them respectively.
- 4. The Group takes note that the Application of Paragraph 5b of the Annex to the Resolution Establishing the Preparatory Commission regarding the restoration of voting rights to States Signatories in arrears has been initiated. The Group wishes to thank Mr. Pedro Peñha Brasil, from the Permanent Mission of Brazil for facilitating the negotiation process. The Group requests the PrepCom to use the agreement reached as a basis to specifically consider applications received in an equitable manner.
- 5. The Group also takes note of Note Verbal no. LEGPMOS/305/0/note65/BZ08/20 dated 31st August 2020 from the PTS which circulated applications from State Signatories for restoration of voting rights, the majority of whom are members of the Group. The Group would like to reiterate its support to the Chair in working on this issue during the 54th Resumed Session of the Commission. The Group further reiterates its statement as delivered during the PrepCom on 25 June 2020.

I, thank you, Madam Chair.



G-77 and China statement during the 58th session of Working Group A 28 – 30 October 2020 delivered by H. E. Ambassador Maria Cleofe Natividad, Permanent Representative of the Philippines

Mr. Chair,

- 1. The Group of 77 and China would like to thank Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan, for chairing the 58th Session of Working Group A. The Group takes this opportunity to renew to you, Ambassador, the assurances of its full support and cooperation.
- 2. The Group is deeply saddened by the loss of so many lives globally due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and expresses its solidarity with all countries as they battle with the effects of the pandemic. Cooperation to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, including through a multilateral approach, should be strengthened and intensified. The Group welcomes the Organization's business continuity, flow of data and data products despite restrictions caused by COVID-19 and express its gratitude for the efforts of the PTS in this regard.
- 3. The Group is of the view that, this is a time for the international community, to demonstrate its capability to work together in solidarity to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. The international community must unite in its efforts to ensure access to scientific guidance, training, equipment, essential medical supplies, and concrete life-saving services to countries in greatest need and in regions where the full impact is yet to be felt.
- 4. The Group considers that at this juncture cooperation and solidarity should prevail among nations, and calls upon countries to ensure that their measures will not have a negative impact on the capacity of States to respond efficiently to COVID-19.
- 5. The Group takes into account the ends of term of the Executive Secretary, the Chair of the Working Group B and members of the Advisory Group, and would like to assure the Chair of its readiness to support efforts in the Preparatory Commission to reach consensual conclusion of these matters.
- 6. The Group would also like to thank the Executive Secretary, Dr Lassina Zerbo, for his opening remarks and takes note of his reports on the non-verification related activities for the period of April to August 2020. The Group would also to extend its appreciation to the PTS for the timely issuance of the documents.
- 7. The Group wishes to reiterate our observation that since the last ratification by the Republic of Zimbabwe in February 2019, which brought the total number of ratification to 168, no other developments in this area have been observed. We strongly believe that more and stronger efforts should be undertaken to achieve the universality of the Treaty.
- 8. The Group wishes to reiterate its full support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and stresses the need for an early entry into force of the CTBT, with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

- 9. The Group takes note on the report of the Fifty-fifth Session of the Advisory Group and appreciate the efforts and expertise of the Advisory Group in providing observations, conclusions and recommendations to Working Group A and the PTS on issues related to the associated administrative, budgetary and financial matters. The Group congratulates Mr. Pedro Alexandre Penha Brasil of Brazil for his appointment as the vice-chair of the Advisory Group. The Group also congratulates the newly appointed and reappointed members of the Advisory Group.
- 10. The Group takes note of the 2018-2019 Programme and Budget Performance Report provided by the PTS. The Group also takes note of the 2021 budget proposals, which proposes updates to the 2021 preliminary budget estimates of the approved 2020 2021 Programme and Budget, and would like to reiterate the following comments:
 - a. The Group appreciates the efforts made by the PTS, which are aimed at identifying and implementing measures to increase efficiency and savings to the extent possible of the 2021 budget proposal. The Group also welcomes the PTS' continued integrated approach to capacity building and training activities to increase synergy, effectiveness and efficiency.
 - b. The Group would like to stress that while calling for a balanced approach to develop and allocate resources among all elements of the verification regime of the Treaty, the Group reiterates its position that capacity-building activities should be funded in a sufficient manner through the Regular Budget and that these saving should not compromise the efforts towards effectively strengthening capacity building and training activities for developing countries.
 - c. 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 2020 to the financial period 2021, as soon as they are audited and approved.
- 11. The Group takes note that some workshop, training and exercises towards capacity building activities, was postponed due to COVID-19. The Group would like to highlight that those activities should be rescheduled as soon as circumstances allow.
- 12. The Group supports and appreciates the Commission's continued efforts to mobilize additional voluntary contributions for experts from developing countries to participate in official technical meetings of the Commission, and to ensure the rotation of the experts supported under this pilot project, and encourages that this mobilization be maintained.
- 13. 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. The Group further underlines the importance of the allocation of sufficient and predictable resources to improve the capacity building and training activities of State Signatories, in particular developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

- 14. On Human Resources Management, the Group takes note of the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, and takes this opportunity to continue encouraging the Executive Secretary in his efforts to significantly improve the gender balance and the equitable geographical distribution within the organization and at all levels of responsibility, particularly, at the Professional and higher levels, as important considerations in the recruitment process. The Group further underlines the persistent underrepresentation of developing countries in the staff composition of the PTS, and the need to take appropriate measures to address this issue. The Group encourages the PTS to continue its efforts to improve the representation of staff in the Provisional Technical Secretariat, in accordance with the above principles.
- Travel Time (RSTT) in Combination with Data Sharing and Integration Training for the Middle East and South Asia Region (MESA) in Muscat, Oman on 15-19 November 2020. The Group also looks forward to the 2021 CTBT Science and Technology Conference to be held in Vienna in June next year which aims to identify opportunities and possible solutions to continuously improve nuclear test monitoring and verification, and to promote the wider civil and scientific applications of techniques and data used for test ban verification, among other goals. Our Group will be significantly active in this event, through the participation of scientists, experts, diplomats and authorities. We reiterate our full support for the Conference.
- 16. Finally, the Group of 77 and China looks forward to constructive deliberations and a timely conclusion of the tasks of this Working Group.

Thank you Mr. Chair.



Statement of the Group of 77 and China during the 55th session of the Preparatory Commission, 14-18 December 2020, delivered by Ms. Deena Joy D. Amatong, Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister, Consul General, Permanent Mission of the Philippines

- 1. The Group of 77 and China condemns the violent attack that took place in Vienna on 2 November 2020. The Group would like to express its deep condolences to the families of the victims and wishes those injured a speedy recovery. The Group reaffirms its solidarity with the people and the Government of Austria.
- 2. The Group would like to thank Ambassador Fauzia Mebarki for chairing the 55th Session of the Preparatory Commission. The Group takes this opportunity to renew to you, Ambassador, the assurances of its full support and cooperation.
- 3. The Group thanks the Executive Secretary for his opening remarks and takes note of his reports on the verification and non-verification-related activities of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Commission.
- 4. The Group wishes to reiterate its full support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and stresses the need for an early entry into force of the CTBT, with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.
- 5. The Group of 77 and China is deeply saddened by the loss of so many lives globally due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and expresses its solidarity with all countries as they battle with the effects of the pandemic. Cooperation to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, including through a multilateral approach, should be strengthened and intensified. The international community must unite in its efforts to ensure access to scientific guidance, training, equipment, essential medical supplies, and concrete life-saving services to countries in greatest need and in regions where the full impact is yet to be felt.
- 6. The Group supports efforts to ensure business continuity in the CTBTO Prepcom and also expresses gratitude to the PTS of all its efforts amidst the ongoing COVID19 pandemic. The Group would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the exceptional nature of the current session of the Commission must not set a precedent for future sessions, nor be considered as an amendment to existing rules, norms or practices. The Group also highlights that the postponement of substantive discussions on a number of issues that were scheduled for this session is a one-time measure necessitated by unprecedented circumstances, and that postponed discussions and decisions, that were scheduled to take place at the 54th session, must now take place at the upcoming session of the Prepcom, as a matter of priority.
- 7. The Group expresses its deep concern on recent reports of the possible planning and preparation for nuclear test explosions by State Signatories. Any nuclear tests explosion, if carried out, would not only break the global moratorium on nuclear

weapon test explosions, but severely undermine the Nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation regime and international peace and security. The Group calls upon all of the States to observe nuclear test moratoria and to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to general and complete and irreversible nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control.

8. The Group would like to recognize as well that there has not been further development since ratification by the Republic of Zimbabwe in February 2019, which brought the total number of ratifying countries to 168. The Group stresses the need for all possible efforts to achieve the universality of the Treaty.

Madam Chairperson,

- 9. The Group takes note of the report of Working Group A (WGA) at its Fifty-Eight Session and the recommendations contained therein, and thanks its Chairperson, Ambassador Nada Kruger, for her leadership and transparency in conducting its deliberations, including through holding timely informal consultations. We would also like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Ganeson Sivagurunathan of Malaysia for taking the Chairmanship role in the absence of Ambassador Nada Kruger during the last WGA session.
- 10. The Group takes note of the recommendations made by WGA. The Group would like to stress that while calling for a balanced approach to develop and allocate resources among all elements of the verification regime of the Treaty, the Group reiterates its position that capacity-building activities should be funded in a sufficient manner through the Regular Budget and that any savings should not compromise the efforts towards effectively strengthening capacity building and training activities for developing countries.

- 11. The Group wishes to thank Dr. Schulze for all his efforts during his leadership as Chairperson of Working Group B and with the end of his term the Group expresses its best wishes for all his future endeavors. The Group looks forward to the selection of the new Chairperson for WGB in the current PrepCom, while respecting the principle of geographical rotation.
- 12. The Group takes note of the consideration of the report of WGB and notes with appreciation progress made by the PTS in implementing the 2019 2020 verification related programme. The Group would like to take this opportunity to emphasize 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.
- 13. The Group would like to reiterate that capacity-building activities postponed due to COVID-19 should be rescheduled as soon as circumstances allow. Additionally, we would like to emphasize the importance of geographical and gender representation in training and capacity building activities as well as workshops and expert meetings.
- 14. The Group takes note of the report of the Advisory Group at its Fifty-Fifth Session and its recommendations. The Group reiterates its appreciation of the efforts

and expertise of the Advisory Group in providing observations, conclusions and recommendations on issues related to the associated administrative, budgetary, and financial matters.

Madam Chairperson,

- 15. The Group would like to reiterate that taking into account the ends of term of the Executive Secretary, Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the PrepCom, the Chairperson of the Working Group B and members of the Advisory Group, the G-77 and China would like to assure the Chair of its readiness to support efforts in the Preparatory Commission to reach conclusion of these matters.
- 16. On the Agenda of the Appointment of the Executive Secretary, the Group would like to thank you and appreciates your efforts, Madam Chairperson, and the informal consultations that have been held under your guidance. The Group further appreciates the session held on 9 November 2020, which afforded the respective candidates an opportunity to share their vision for the Commission with States Signatories.
- 17. The Group would like to reiterate that the Vienna spirit and the principle of consensus should prevail in any decision-making process.
- 18. On the appointment and reappointments of the directors of the PTS, the Group takes note of the efforts made to improve the representation of the staff, including the achievement of gender balance at the director level of the PTS. The Group takes this opportunity to continue encouraging the Executive Secretary to significantly improve the equitable geographical distribution and the gender balance within the organization at all levels of responsibility, bearing in mind the persistent underrepresentation of developing countries in the staff composition of the PTS, and the need to take appropriate measures to address the issue. Furthermore, the Group encourages youth participation in all activities of the CTBTO.
- 19. On the Agenda item of developing guidelines for holding non-scheduled sessions of the Commission, the Group is looking forward to further discussing these guidelines as soon as possible in person sessions bearing in mind that according to the Rules of Procedure, it is upon the Commission to decide on the convening of sessions of the Commission. The Group takes note of the proposal on guidelines for non-scheduled sessions of the Commission presented by Chile on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean Countries and its revised version.
- 20. The Group looks forward to finalizing guidelines for holding extraordinary sessions of the Commission, as well as finalizing direct and clear guidance for noble gas background characterization, at the soonest in-person session of the Commission, as a matter of priority. In this regard, the Group stresses that the postponement of the deadlines for those decisions is directly linked to the temporary changes in the format and modality of meetings of the Prepcom in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 21. Finally, the Group looks forward to a constructive deliberation and timely conclusion of the work of this Session of the Preparatory Commission.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (COPUOS)



Statement of the G-77 and China during the Fifty-Seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, 3 to 14 February 2020, delivered by H.E.

Omar Amer Youssef, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Egypt 3 February 2020

Madam Chair,

1. On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to express our gratitude on your Chairmanship of the 57th session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPUOS and assure you and the members of your bureau of our full support. The Group would also like to extend its appreciation to the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, and her dedicated staff in the Secretariat for the preparations required for convening this meeting.

Madam Chair,

- 2. The Group welcomes the increasing awareness of the potential, importance and impact that space activities have today, especially among the Group members. The Group also welcomes the Dominican Republic, Rwanda and Singapore as new members of the Committee.
- 3. The Group would like to seize this opportunity to express its firm conviction for the continuation of the work that COPUOS

and its two Subcommittees have carried out, as the main UN forum, in promoting international cooperation on exploration and peaceful use of outer space and on offering an appropriate environment.

- 4. The Group is willing to engage in the discussions of this Subcommittee to ensure enhance international cooperation in space activities so as to make the benefits from space activities available to all the peoples of the world. Considering the high 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 access to space for all, the principle of exploration and use of outer space on a basis of equality, the principle of the non-appropriation of outer space including the moon and other celestial bodies, and the peaceful use of outer space.

Madam 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 sub-committee, 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 is of the opinion that space technology applications must translate into concrete benefits in developing countries. In order to achieve this goal, transfer of technology needs to be promulgated through capacity building and access to technology on favorable terms for developing countries. In this vein, the Group strongly urges States to refrain from promulgating, adopting and applying any unilateral economic, financial and trade measures that could impede the access to space and space activities, particularly, in developing countries.
- 8. Space is the area of both cooperation and competition, but the Group believes that COPUOS must remain the Forum for enhancement of cooperation. 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. In this vein, the Group welcomes the ongoing enhanced cooperation in outer space within the African Union and the establishment of the African Agency for Space.

Madam Chair,

- 9. The Group welcomes the constructive efforts made by all to achieve the adoption of LTS guidelines in 62nd session of COPUOS last year. 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 the future relevant work regarding this subject, including in the deliberations of the relevant working group.
- 10. Regarding space debris, the Group is of the view that the issue of placement of large and mega constellations and its implications is of priority and importance. This topic should be treated as a priority with the view to mitigate the creation of space debris.
- 11. The Group is also of the view that, the deliberations on the issue of "Space2030 Agenda and its Implementation Plan" should take into consideration the contribution of space to sustainable development and avoid any measures that would limit access to space by nations with emerging space capabilities. These processes should be given full consideration to the key concerns of developing countries and avoid setting up overly high standards or thresholds for space activities in a way that may hinder the enhancement of capacity building. In this regard, the Group emphasizes, once more, the need for capacity building to ensure that the required technical expertise is made available to Member States, especially developing countries.

Madam Chair,

12. 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 the outcomes which will contribute to global prosperity through the promotion of enhanced international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space.

I thank you Madam Chair.



Group of 77 and China's position on the way forward for 59th session of the Legal Subcommittee (LSC) and the 63rd session of COPUOS

In response to the information circular (reference number: OOSA/2020/14) regarding the Proposal by the Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) on the way forward for the upcoming 63rd session of the Committee and the 59th session of the Legal Subcommittee (LSC) under extraordinary measures the Group of 77 and China would like to express its position as follows:

The Group of G77 and China noted the Chair's proposal contained in the information circular (reference number: OOSA/2020/14) on the way forward for 59th session of the LSC and 63rd session of COPUOS. The group also noted various concerns raised by its members during the virtual briefing meetings with UNOOSA regarding this issue.

The Group is of the opinion that at this stage, the extraordinary meetings of 59th session of the LSC and 63rd session of COPUOS should be limited strictly to the procedural issues which are necessary for continuation of the work of the committee in 2021 and all substantive discussions on various topics should be postponed to a later stage when the physical presence of the experts from capitals becomes possible. This position also applies to the work of the SPACE 2030 Agenda working group. In this vein the group is of the view that the meetings of the SPACE 2030 Agenda working group should also be postponed.

The Group of 77 and China also wants to seize this opportunity to reiterate its position as stated in a letter to the Executive Heads of the four main Vienna-based UN organizations dated 27 May 2020 including specifically regarding virtual and hybrid meetings that "Virtual and hybrid meetings should have a clear view on the rules of procedure and methods of work and be more feasible for briefings, extended bureau meetings, or smaller group meetings. However, it may pose a problem when it comes to formal or informal meetings especially when there is a need to negotiate outcomes and decisions.