

**Acting Director-General of UNOV/Acting Executive Director of  
UNODC Remarks  
G77 Handover Ceremony**

Tuesday, 20 January 2026, 15:00, Boardroom D

*(To be checked against delivery)*

Distinguished heads of the Vienna-based Organizations,

Distinguished Ambassadors and delegates,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to join you today for the traditional G77 handover ceremony.

Allow me to begin by commending and congratulating Ambassador Makoloo of Kenya for steering the G77 Vienna Chapter through a very challenging year with remarkable commitment and perseverance.

His leadership did strengthen the voice of the Group at a time when unity and resolve have been especially needed.

And I would also like to join the others in warmly welcoming Ambassador Kumaran as the incoming Chair.

Having witnessed your leadership as Chair of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the CND, I am confident that you will lead the G77 with the same impressive judgement, strategic vision, and diplomatic skill.

The United Nations Office at Vienna and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime look forward to working with you.

The G77 has long served as a collective voice for our work, and it plays a very active role in our intergovernmental processes.

And the majority of our work takes place in G77 countries.

The principles that guide the G77 – solidarity, mutual understanding, and dialogue – are the very principles upon which effective the multilateral system is based on – and the G77 sets an example of these principles.

I was reminded of this last year in Viet Nam – a proud G77 member, which hosted the signing ceremony of the new UN Cybercrime Convention.

Over 70 countries have already signed this instrument, including many from the G77.

This achievement sent a strong signal of the G77's leadership on a prominent global security threat, and demonstrates that, even in complex and sensitive substantive areas, progress is possible when countries act together in good faith.

Mr. Chair,

As you take up your responsibilities, allow me to assure you of UNODC's steadfast support.

We will continue to navigate the UN80 reform process with a clear focus on maintaining our ability to deliver for those most in need.

And we will continue to strive for greater geographical representation across the organization, so that the diversity of this Group is reflected in our work and our decision-making.

Let me end by saying that, at a time of cascading crises and growing uncertainty, the world needs the G77's leadership more than ever, to help represent the vulnerable, confront injustice, reduce inequality and deliver real change.

Thank you.