



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the
United Nations and other International Organizations**

DRAFT PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

**UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
50TH SESSION
21-23 November 2022**

**AGENDA ITEM 9: UNIDO ACTIVITIES RELATED TO DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION AND INNOVATION**

Mister President,

The Philippines thanks the Director General for this report on UNIDO's activities related to digital transformation and innovation. We take note of its contents that included the undertakings of UNIDO in this important area of development, as well as the opening remarks of the Director General that gave a clear indication of how he intends to steer the Organization in this regard.

The Philippines emphasizes that the 4IR technologies play a vital role in the overall national progress through their applications in various sectors such as agriculture, climate and environment, health, infrastructure, public services, and disaster risk reduction and management.

The government supports and implements projects and programs on artificial intelligence, manufacturing, blockchain, high-performance computing, Internet of Things, and data analytics, as well as on AI, machine learning models, and big data for weather forecast and observation, energy distribution, risk assessment, agriculture, and disease monitoring, including the establishment of the Advanced Mechatronics, Robotics, and Industrial Automation Laboratory (AMERIAL) and the Additive Manufacturing Center (AMCen). These are done in collaboration with academe, private sector, and civil society, and we continuously support research studies and startups on 4IR.

Our Department of Science and Technology implements the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) and "Science for Change", two flagship programs that promote inclusivity and multistakeholder collaboration.

SETUP aims to improve MSME competitiveness through technology upgrading, human capital development and strengthening of innovation capability and has been recognized and requested by UN DESA to be part of the SDG Acceleration Actions Platform of the United Nations. In the face of the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the emergence of Industry 4.0, we have transitioned to SETUP 4.0 in 2021 which will run until 2030. SETUP 4.0 will be at the forefront in the

advancement of the technological needs of the MSMEs in terms of their level of development to deliver the appropriate S&T interventions. It shall likewise provide industry-level assistance.

The program supports the vision of an “Innovative, Resilient, Sustainable and Globally Competitive Gender-Responsive MSME Sector” aimed at creating smart MSMEs through the SMARTER Strategic Themes of sustainable economy, market competence, able human capital, responsive support infrastructure, technology and innovation, enterprise support, and resiliency and continuity.

Meanwhile, the Science for Change Program has four components centered around Research and Development: building economically-relevant R&D Centers across the country; promoting collaborative projects between academe and industry; deploying R&D leaders to higher education institutions; and providing financial assistance for MSMEs to undertake R&D.

Mister President,

The Philippines looks forward to leveraging technologies that will nurture a sustainable economy and society for Filipinos in pursuit of the outcomes laid out in our long-term development goal AmBisyon Natin 2040. We likewise look forward to partnering with UNIDO in realising this road map .

Thank you, Mister President.