



**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 8: CLIMATE NEUTRAL INDUSTRY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Mister President,

The Philippines takes note of the Reports of the Director General on the UNIDO activities related to circular economy as contained in document IDB.50/15 and on the UNIDO Strategy in response to climate change as contained in document IDB.50/16.

We align ourselves with the statement of the Group of 77 and China on this agenda item and in our national capacity wish to add the following:

Mister President,

The Philippines welcomes these reports and is pleased to note the convergences between UNIDO's strategies and activities with the priorities of the Philippine government on mitigating the impact of climate change while pursuing economic growth, including through the uptake of circular economy and sustainable consumption and production practices. We recall the constructive dialogue between UNIDO and the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources during the Secretary General's visit to the Philippines on 27 to 29 September 2022 on how these convergences may be harnessed.

The Philippines will apply a climate risk lens approach, including the conduct of risk assessment in all protected areas. Along these lines, we have identified water security and the National Greening Program on expanding rainforest cover in relation to food security, responsible and sustainable mining, agro-forestry, zero-waste policy and waste-to-energy process, among others, as key priorities in our climate strategy.

We recognize the crucial role of green technology innovation in economic growth as well as environment conservation and protection. In order to catch up with green transition, the Philippines has been putting in place necessary institutional frameworks and policies that would encourage key stakeholders to subscribe to cleaner production through green technologies and innovation, including national legislation such as the Green Jobs Act of 2016.

Mister President,

The Philippines notes that among the highlights of the Director General's visit to the Philippines was the launch of the first solar-hybrid power plant in Mindanao as part of the Renewable Energy Technology to Increase Value-Added of Seaweeds in Tawi-Tawi Project, or RETS, which is expected to officially switch on next month. Out of the eleven ongoing UNIDO projects in the Philippines, RETS is one of the nine that falls under the thematic priority of safeguarding the environment thanks to funding provided by the European Union under its Access to Sustainable Energy Programme.

We, therefore, look forward to future engagements with UNIDO to explore further technical cooperation on green development, such as in energy transition, solid waste and waste-water management, improvement of air quality, climate change adaptation and climate financing, *inter alia*, with the support of funding partners in the international community.

As one of the most vulnerable countries to the ravaging and increasingly rampant effects of climate change despite its small carbon footprint due to its current level of industrialization, the Philippines welcomes its collaborations with UNIDO and encourages the Organization, through the Director General, to continue exploring ways to mainstream climate-responsive initiatives within the context of the former's mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

Thank you Mister President.