

51st SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
3-6 JUNE 2023, VIENNA

STATEMENT OF H.E. EVANGELINA LOURDES A. BERNAS

AGENDA ITEM 3: REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR 2022

Thank you, [Mister / Madam] President.

[Mister / Madam] President,
Mr. Director General,
Excellencies,
Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

1. The delegation of the Republic of the Philippines associates itself with the statement of the Group of 77 and China and joins all delegations in expressing our congratulations on your election as President of the Industrial Development Board in its fifty-first session, as well as the rest of your Bureau. We also thank the Secretariat for their commendable work in preparing for this session.
2. I wish to assure you, [Mister / Madam] President, of my delegation's support towards the successful outcome of this session of the IDB.

[Mister / Madam] President:

3. The Philippines acknowledges the opening statement of Director General Gerd Müller that managed to capture in a succinct yet comprehensive way the important work undertaken by UNIDO over the last year, the state of play of the Organization, and the path forward.
4. We also thank the Director General for his report on UNIDO's substantive, programmatic, and administrative activities in 2022 that was first presented during the 39th session of the Programme and Budget Committee in May.

[Mister / Madam] President:

5. Along these lines, I wish to recall the Philippine statement delivered on this agenda item at the aforementioned PBC session, which highlighted the robust collaboration between the Philippines and UNIDO resulting in a substantial increase in projects in the country over the last five years. We are pleased to note that this relationship continues to grow stronger, as evidenced by the visit to UNIDO a few weeks ago

by Philippine government officials to discuss upcoming projects in the country focused on plastic waste management, circular economy, and sustainability.

6. We are optimistic that with the Director General's positive outlook of "doing more with more" in conjunction with UNIDO's new motto of "Progress by Innovation", UNIDO will continue to be a nexus for key activities relating to the sustainable development goals that align with the Philippine government's medium and long-term development priorities, particularly in the areas of industrial policy, development of SMEs and employment, green development, digitalization and innovation, food and energy security, and climate change.
7. We, therefore, encourage the Director General to continue with the innovations and reforms he has initiated, including organizational restructuring, seeking new funding sources, more efficient resource mobilization, scaling up delivery of technical assistance, capacity building services, and programmatic and normative activities, among others.

Finally, [Mister / Madam] President,

8. The Philippines recognizes and underscores the importance of the work of the Industrial Development Board as one of the Policymaking Organs of UNIDO. During our extensive membership and leadership roles in the IDB over the past years, we have worked constructively within the Board to advance the Organization's mandate of inclusive and sustainable development within the ambit of south-south, north-south, and triangular interaction and collaboration.
9. In this regard, we look forward to rejoining the IDB for the period 2024 to 2027 with the view to continue our positive contribution to the processes of UNIDO, mindful of the Vienna Spirit of forging consensus.

Thank you, [Mister / Madam] President.