



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

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

*To be delivered by  
UNDERSECRETARY SHARON S. GARIN  
Department of Energy*

on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference of the  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization  
27 November to 01 December 2023  
Vienna International Center

***CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY***

UNIDO Director General Gerd Müller,

Her Excellency Ambassador Debora Lepre, President of the 20th session of the UNIDO  
General Conference,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen:

Good [morning / afternoon / evening].

The delegation of the Republic of the Philippines aligns itself with the statement of the Group  
of 77 and China, and wishes to deliver the following statement in our national capacity:

Madam President,

On behalf of the Philippine delegation, please allow me to extend my warmest congratulations  
on your election as President of the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the UNIDO General Conference. I am  
confident that under your able guidance, this session will deliver what it has set out to achieve,  
and I assure you of my delegation's full support and constructive engagement to ensure our  
collective success.

I also wish to commend the outgoing President of the 19th General Conference, His  
Excellency Ambassador Mohamed Mezghani of Tunisia and his bureau for the exemplary role  
of steering the previous session, as well as the intersessional meetings over the past two  
years.

My appreciation also goes out to the Secretariat for their outstanding work in preparing for and  
ensuring the smooth conduct of this conference.

Madam President,

The Philippines welcomes the opening statement of Director General Gerd Müller, which articulated where the Organization stands after the first two years of his leadership. We thank the Director General for UNIDO's vision under the new slogan, "Progress by Innovation" and for setting the theme of this General Conference, "Fair globalization: Innovative solutions for the industry of tomorrow."

The last time we gathered in 2021, the world was still reeling from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, we not only have to deal with a post-pandemic global recovery effort, but we are also faced with the extreme challenges brought about by conflict, climate change, a challenging global economic environment, and industrial slow-down, to name a few.

Instead of faltering as a result of one crisis after another, the Philippine government has taken steps to equip the nation with the necessary tools that would enable us not only to weather these geo-economic and macroeconomic storms, but to be better prepared for future disruptions.

We are pleased to share that the Philippine economy recently posted a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 5.9 percent in the third quarter of this year, the strongest among major economies in Asia and exceeding forecasts.

The blueprint in this endeavor is the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 crafted in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s Socioeconomic Agenda. The Plan was designed for deep economic and social transformation to bolster job creation and accelerate poverty reduction by steering the economy back on a high-growth path, and attain a better quality of life. This growth must be inclusive, building an environment that provides equal opportunities to all Filipinos, and equipping them with skills to participate fully in an innovative and globally competitive economy through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

One of the goals of the Philippine Development Plan is the transformation of the production sectors through innovation, which plays a critical role in our pursuit for sustained and accelerated economic growth and development. The key strategies and approaches to this target include modernizing agriculture and agri-business, revitalization of industry, and the reinvigoration of the service sector. These will be undertaken with an eye towards moving Philippine products up the value chain and the creation of a uniquely Filipino brand for the international market.

Embodied in the national development priorities of the Philippines, the President's eight-point socioeconomic agenda, and the long-term vision of AmBisyon Natin 2040, and in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Philippines signed last October its Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework with the UN for the term 2024-2028. It is a forward-looking partnership to advance the national agenda for innovation-driven, climate-smart, resilient, and inclusive economic growth. Through this new cooperation framework, the Philippines and the UN have agreed to work on three overarching strategic

outcomes, which include human capital development, inclusion and resilience-building; sustainable economic development, decent work and innovation; and climate action, environmental sustainability, and disaster resilience.

UNIDO is a vital partner of the Philippines in operationalizing this framework, especially through its country office. At present, there are thirteen ongoing UNIDO-supported projects in the Philippines under such thematic areas as creating shared prosperity, advancing economic competitiveness, and safeguarding the environment. These projects are being undertaken under the PH-UNIDO Country Programming Framework 2018-2023, with a total value of 188 million USD. The government is currently in negotiations for a new Country Programme Framework, and we look forward to concluding the document before the current one expires this year.

Madam President:

Energy is a critical component in the Philippines' development plan. Without an adequate and stable source of affordable energy, it will be extremely challenging to move ahead with inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The Philippines' Department of Energy have begun consultations on the revised Philippine Energy Plan 2023-2050, which updates the previous energy plan 2020-2040.

The revised Philippine Energy Plan is based on two scenarios: the reference scenario which will be based on previously established renewable energy targets; and the clean energy scenario, which would support the entry of additional capacities from nuclear energy, the repurposing of coal, and the recent decision to retire some of the coal facilities.

In either case, the goal is that by 2030, the percentage of renewables in the Philippine energy mix would be 35 percent, and by 2050, renewables should account for at least 50 percent in the generation mix.

The gradual development of nuclear energy is also taken into account in the clean energy goal, with 1,200 megawatts of capacity planned by 2032, 2,400 MW by 2035, and 4,800 MW by 2050. This is in line with the President's directive to diversify national energy mix with a reliable, secure, sustainable, and affordable source of power.

Hydrogen is another promising source of renewable energy. The Philippines is interested in learning more about the application of and participating in UNIDO's Global Programme for Hydrogen in Industry launched in 2021.

Madam President:

The Philippines has always been a strong and productive partner of UNIDO. From the time when the late Domingo Siazon, Jr. took the helm of the Organization as its first Director General following UNIDO's reconstitution as a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1985, until today, we have strived to work constructively with all Member States through the Policymaking Organs. The Philippines is keen on continuing this consensus-based approach to multilateralism as we seek to rejoin the Industrial Development Board for the term 2024

2027. As the sole nominee representing Southeast Asia in the Asia-Pacific Group, we seek to advance the principle of equitable geographic distribution in the Board and we bank on our 36 years of experience to preserve and advance the interests of all Member States, but most importantly the developing countries, in the IDB.

We look forward to the discussions throughout the week and rest assured of our positive engagement towards a productive General Conference.

Thank you, Madam President.

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