

**Agenda Item 9:
Inclusive and sustainable development in middle-income countries**

Thank you, Madam President.

The Philippines aligns itself with the statement of the G77 and China on the Director-General's report on inclusive and sustainable development in middle-income countries (MICs), and makes the following statement in our national capacity.

The Philippines positively notes that UNIDO has launched new initiatives to strengthen its engagement with MICs, such as its policy advisory services and normative work on standards and industrial policies. These include the Global Clean Hydrogen Programme, of which the Philippines is a part.

UNIDO's work on partnerships related to MICs is important. UNIDO participated in the High-Level Ministerial Conference on MICs in Rabat last February 2024 and, as reflected in the Director-General's report, the Philippines welcomes UNIDO's support for our government as the host of the next High-Level Conference of Middle-Income Countries on 28-29 April 2025 in Manila.

The Manila Conference intends to break new ground in the discourse on middle-income countries by elaborating on the Strategic Plan of Action for MICs. It aims to encourage concrete actions for MICs to leverage opportunities and address challenges.

Madam President, Middle-Income Countries are major engines of global growth, constituting about a third of global GDP. Yet MICs are also home to 62% of the world's poor. The Philippines therefore strongly encourages UNIDO to broaden and advance its work to support MICs, addressing their specific challenges for continued sustainable economic and industrial development.

Thank you, Madam President.