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STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
at the
16th SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF
UNIDO
30 November to 04 December 2015, Vienna

Delivered by H.E. MARIA ZENEIDA ANGARA COLLINSON
Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UNIDO

Madame President,

The Philippine Delegation congratulates you on your Presidency of the 16th Session of the UNIDO General Conference, and welcomes the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the roster of UNIDO Member States.

The Philippines aligns itself with the statements of the Group of 77 and China and the Asian Group, and wishes to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Madame President,

Our 16th General Conference takes place at a historic juncture in the global development agenda. Two seminal global conferences have taken place this year, namely: The 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in March, and the UN Sustainable Development Summit which adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals in New York last September. The third important global conference, COP 21, is taking place in Paris with almost all our principals attending.

UNIDO, whose primordial task in the SDGs is the implementation of Goal 9 - to “build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation” - benefits from these conferences and is positively positioned, therefore, against a perfect background of a strong political commitment by our leaders, the fervor of our peoples and communities, and the pragmatic support of the private sector

The nexus among these three most important global conferences is found in the thematic words; inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth and development.

The Philippines therefore encourages UNIDO Member States and Director General Li Yong to focus on programs and projects that promote this objective. The Philippines is ready to partner with UNIDO in projects that contribute to the eradication of poverty, promote sustainable and inclusive economic development through industrialization and innovation, and support resilient physical, institutional and human resources infrastructure.

In this connection, my delegation recognizes the benefits of several UNIDO technical cooperation programs under the environment and energy thematic area. There is, however, still much room for strengthened partnerships between UNIDO and the Philippines. For example, we recall that the Philippines proposed a project with UNIDO to provide livelihood assistance to communities affected by Typhoon Haiyan. This project, which involves micro and small enterprises strikes at the heart of inclusive and sustainable industrial development and would have had an immediate impact on the eradication of extreme poverty for those whose lives and livelihoods still suffer from the havoc and devastation wrought by the strongest tropical storm on record. We ask UNIDO to revisit this project in light of SDG9.

Madame President,

As UNIDO approaches the celebration of its 50th anniversary next year, my delegation recalls that the Philippines through, inter alia, the two-term leadership of Ambassador, and later Foreign Secretary, Domingo Siazon, has helped build and strengthen UNIDO whose mandate remains as relevant today as almost half a century before. My delegation is convinced that UNIDO, despite recent challenges and the bigger responsibility ahead, will not only be equal to the task but flourish and succeed.

We can ensure this if we have a UNIDO that builds on its past achievements, learns from its failures, and maintains a consultative, participatory, equitable, transparent and accountable character..

Madame President,

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should not be an end in itself. Rather, it should mark the beginning of an intensified commitment by the international community towards the achievement of our ultimate goal which is to end poverty and afford equal opportunities and dignity for all.

UNIDO has its work cut out for it. Let us rise to the challenge.

Thank you Madame President.