

STATEMENT (PHILIPPINES)

Agenda Item 3: Annual Report of the Director General for 2015

Madame President,

As this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, I wish to add my voice to earlier delegations in congratulating you and the members of the Bureau on your election, as well as to express appreciation to the outgoing Chair and Bureau and to the Secretariat for the excellent preparations for this meeting. The Philippines associates itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group and Group of 77 and China and will make the following remarks in our national capacity.

As the Philippines is entering a period of heightened economic growth, stronger and enhanced cooperation with UNIDO is important in sustaining the momentum.

My delegation notes that there are a number of ongoing UNIDO projects in the Philippines in the Environment and Energy thematic area. My delegation is thankful for the support given by UNIDO and at the same time seeks to further enhance cooperation in the thematic areas of Trade Capacity Building and Poverty Reduction because there remains a sizeable segment of the population who live below the poverty line.

The administration of President Rodrigo Duterte has embarked on a twenty-five year long-term plan known as *Ambisyon Natin 2040* or translated as “Our Ambition 2040”. This plan aims to triple real per capita incomes and eradicate hunger and poverty in the Philippines by 2040 or sooner. The Philippines acknowledges the potential benefits of partnering with international organizations, particularly UNIDO, to help in the realization of its goals.

In closing, my delegation seeks to achieve enhanced and stronger cooperation with UNIDO in the next 50 years and beyond.

Thank you Madame President.