

STATEMENT (PHILIPPINES)

Agenda Item 7: UNIDO field policy and network

Madame President,

The Philippines takes note of the steps taken by the Director-General to implement the provisions of the “Strategic Guidance Document”, in particular the provision on the adjustments in the field network offices and appreciates the briefings and consultations held by the Director-General and Secretariat in this regard.

The Philippines understands that the current financial predicament of the Organization has made it necessary to adjust the field network architecture. The Philippines has gone along with the proposed restructuring in the spirit of solidarity and sacrifice to ensure that our Organization remains viable and bankable. However, we do so on condition that the assurance given by the present leadership to the effect that the level and scope of the Organizations’s current robust engagement with the Philippines **will not be diminished nor impaired** as a result of this restructuring. Indeed, we rather look forward to larger mutually beneficial exchanges and partnership with UNIDO.

For this purpose, a re-consideration of the proposed channel of communication between the Philippines Country Office and UNIDO Headquarters

which, under the new field office system, now needs to go via the regional hub, adding another layer in the process, must be made after a test run of the new system. Direct access to headquarters will result in reducing possible delays and implementation of projects, and guarantee equitable delivery and fulfillment of the mandate of UNIDO.

Therefore, the Philippines joins others in calling for a periodic review of UNIDO's field network structure to assess whether or not the new structure is at the very least, as effective as the old one, while resulting in some savings for the Organization.

With these comments, my delegation takes note of the Director-General's report contained in IDB.44/15.

Thank you Madame President.

