



# PHILIPPINES

## Economic and Social Council Operational Activities for Development Segment

### General Debate

To be delivered by

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Minister

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The Philippines aligns itself with the statement of the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We thank the Secretary-General for his reports and the Deputy Secretary General and the transition team for all their hardwork to implement the UN Development System reforms.

We recognize, with appreciation, the progress made and acknowledge that more work remains to be done.

As a programme country, the Philippines consistently maintains that the operational activities of the UN Development System must be aligned with the national plans, priorities and changing needs of Member States

towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. These reforms must also be in line with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR).

The Philippines recognizes that a reinvigorated resident coordinator system is the cornerstone of the repositioned UNDS. We were therefore pleased to accept the appointment of Mr. Ola Algren as the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Mr. Titon Mitra as the UNDP Resident Representative in Manila.

The new Philippines-United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (PFSD) 2019-2023 was signed on 21 November 2018. This redefines the UN's engagement with the Philippines from one that provides "development assistance" to one that defines a strategic partnership. At the same time, we note the ongoing preparations of the new Management and Accountability Framework (MAF) led by UN Development system Transition Team, with the support of the UN Development Cooperation Office (UNDCO). We would appreciate receiving more information in this regard.

Transparency and accountability must be ensured throughout the implementation of the reforms. We expect the RCs to be fully accountable to the national governments, guided by clear reporting lines to the host government on its implementation of the PFSD and the activities of the UN country teams.

For the UNDS Repositioning to be effective and inclusive, a tailored approach must be undertaken. In this regard, we take note, with appreciation and with commitment to follow-through, the Secretary-General's assertion

that there is a need to sustain the development gains of middle-income countries, who at times are victims of their own successes even as they cope with persistent vulnerabilities. We wish to underline that the Philippines, as a middle-income country, is also one of the most vulnerable countries to the adverse effects of climate change.

We welcome the Secretary General's emphasis on strengthening the regional architecture and maximizing the potentials of the UN assets and expertise at the regional level.

The Philippines notes that the funding compact is a balanced document and is an accurate reflection of the collective ambition of the Member States and the UN. We welcome its conclusion.

Excellency, this year is the first opportunity for Member States to review progress in repositioning the UN Development System through the Operational Activities for Development Segment (OAS) of the ECOSOC. We look forward to frank and interactive discussions, while reaffirming that the ECOSOC is a platform to ensure accountability for, and acceleration of, system-wide performance and results in relation to the 2030 Agenda and provide guidance to and overall coordination of the United Nations development system.

You can be assured, Secretary General, of my country's continued full support and cooperation towards a renewed UN development system.

Thank you.