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General statements by member States
Speaker: Philippines

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Statement of H.E. Mr. Evan P. Garcia
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Philippines
at the 26th Special Session of the Trade and Development Board
15 June 2012

Mr. President, Ambassador Maruping,
Dr. Supachai,
Mr. Ortiz,
Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

At the outset, let me associate with other delegations who have congratulated you on the success of Doha. The Philippines also associates itself with the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Asian Group.

The Philippines takes note of the issues raised and the recommendations contained in the JIU Report, as well as the UNCTAD Management Response to the Report. The Philippines further thanks the Inspector for his briefing, and the UNCTAD Secretary-General for his comprehensive response in improving the management and enhancing the visibility of UNCTAD.

The Philippines takes note that the UNCTAD Secretariat welcomes the majority of these recommendations as a means for improving its management and administration, and that some of the recommendations may be considered as implemented.

The Philippines believes that the Trade and Development Board is meeting at this Special Session because we all recognize the important role that UNCTAD plays through its three pillars of consensus building, research and analysis, and technical cooperation.

The Inspector noted in his Report that the UNCTAD Secretariat has a “pioneering role to contribute to the debate on new models for development.” The Inspector furthermore acknowledged that “UNCTAD is at the crossroads of many of the overarching mandates on development emanating from the United Nations system. As such, it has a role to play in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals as well as in the implementation of Monterrey Agreement on Financing for Development.”

The Inspector also recognizes the important work of UNCTAD in its two successful technical cooperation programmes, namely its Debt Management and Financial Analysis System (DMFAS) and its Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) which are being implemented in a number of countries including the Philippines.

In the task that we are embarking on in this Special Session, our overall objective should be to strengthen UNCTAD, and to improve the work of the Secretariat to enable it to be more effective in delivering its services and in serving the interests of all Member-States.

The Philippines wishes to note, in particular, the following issues raised in the Inspector's Report:

The Inspector highlighted the need for the effective engagement of Member-States in reaching Agreed Conclusions. The Philippines wishes to emphasize that UNCTAD is a Member-State driven organization. While the Secretariat may facilitate our work as Member-States, my delegation wishes to emphasize that through the the consensus-building pillar of UNCTAD, we as Member-States are the ones who negotiate on the drafts and the ones who have the final say on the final outcome document of our meetings.

Considering the important contribution that UNCTAD can make on development issues, the Philippines therefore welcomes this call by the Inspector for more active engagement by Member-States in UNCTAD, particularly on substantive meetings.

On the Secretariat's efforts to improve the internal coordination of technical assistance projects, the Philippines welcomes these efforts and looks forward to the draft strategy of partnerships being prepared for consideration before the Regular Session of the Trade and Development Board.

Like other delegations, the Philippines welcomes the JIU recommendation for the establishment of a non-earmarked general Trust Fund to support UNCTAD's substantive operations, including its technical cooperation activities.

The Philippines further agrees that more efforts should be devoted in UNCTAD's outreach and communication strategy in order to increase UNCTAD's visibility and to highlight the important work that it is undertaking.

In closing, my delegation looks forward to a constructive dialogue with our development partners on the Inspector's Report and the Management Response from UNCTAD, with the end in view of strengthening UNCTAD for the benefit of all Member-States.

Thank you, Mr. President.