

Trade and Development Board, fifty-ninth session
Geneva, 17–28 September 2012

**Item 10: UNCTAD's contribution to the
implementation of and follow-up to the
outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and
summits in the economic and social fields**

General statements by member States
Speaker: Philippines

Friday, 21 September 2012

*Not checked against delivery **

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STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES¹
On Item 10: UNCTAD'S CONTRIBUTION TO
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO
THE OUTCOMES OF THE MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES
AND SUMMITS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS
59th Session of the Trade and Development Board
19 September 2012

Thank you, Mr. President.

1. Since my delegation is taking the floor for the first time, we would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the Trade and Development Board. We trust that under your leadership and guidance, you will be able to successfully conduct the meeting to a fruitful conclusion.
2. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the document for this agenda item.

Mr. President,

3. I wish to align our statement with that made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the distinguished representative of Iran on behalf of the Asian Group.
4. Like many developing countries, this agenda item is of particular interest to my delegation. As a country especially active in the development machinery of the United Nations and recognizing the value and importance of UNCTAD as an important forum for dialogue on development issues, the implementation of the broader development agenda and UNCTAD's role in this regard is of singular and particular interest to the Philippines.
5. We therefore look forward to this debate, as well as to the further strengthening of the Board's deliberations on this important issue in the years ahead. This takes on added importance in view of implementing the outcomes of Rio plus 20 including the development and articulation of sustainable development goals, the forthcoming 50th anniversary of UNCTAD in 2014, and the MDG review in 2015.
6. In this regard, we look forward to a focused preparatory process for UNCTAD to prepare for these two singular events. To this end, we join the call on the President of Board to consider holding consultations with member states at his earliest convenience with a view of putting the preparatory processes on a firmer footing.
7. In accord with UNCTAD XII, and its outcomes, including the Doha Mandate, the attainment of rapid, inclusive and sustained growth, together with

¹ Statement delivered by Mr. Joseph Gerard B. Angeles, Executive Director, Office of the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations, Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines.

empowerment of the poor, are among the top priorities of the Philippines. Our President's "Social Contract with the Filipino People" envisions the attainment of inclusive, broad-based economic growth that is focused on creating more jobs to achieve full employment, and on significantly reducing poverty. We intend to create sustainable employment through enterprise development and strong private sector partnership.

8. Currently, we are using the multi-stakeholder approach to prepare for the Philippines' chairmanship of APEC in 2015. Through fruitful and constructive dialogue with the various views and perspectives, we are building a richer and more comprehensive vision for our chairmanship, including with regard to how our efforts can constructively and usefully contribute to related processes in other forums. In this regard, we would like to see a global approach to development that has inclusiveness as an inherent core value. We also seek a sincere and candid approach to fostering good governance in which national efforts are complemented, nurtured, and reinforced, at the global level.
9. We therefore intend for our chairmanship to be aimed at bringing greater prosperity and stability for the peoples of the APEC economies. We also intend our Chairmanship to contribute to the broader global dialogue on development, including by serving as a bridge to promote constructive dialogue.
10. We therefore likewise intend for our preparations for APEC 2015 to converge with national preparations for the MDG review. The fruits of these efforts in the Philippines, we believe, can also enrich discussions here in UNCTAD.
11. At this juncture, my delegation also wishes to express its readiness for the ASEAN Economic Community, which is envisioned to be established in 2015.
12. As part of a holistic and focused exercise, this could serve to accomplish our collective objectives here which we hope include developing new development objectives aimed at addressing economic fundamentals including building productive capacities, harnessing trade and investment as engines for development, and building a more stable and sustainable global consensus on ensuring that the global approach to development is grounded on addressing global realities as they are, rather than as they were.

Thank you, Mr. President.