

**Trade and Development Board, sixtieth session**  
Geneva, 16–27 September 2013

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

**Speaker: Philippines**

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*Not checked against delivery \**

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## Statement of the Philippines

### **Agenda 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**

Mr. President,

1. My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by Iraq on behalf of the Asian Group.

Mr. President.

2. The Accra Accord provides that UNCTAD will help to implement the global development agenda and pave the way to 2015, and contribute to the articulation of a new and more effective paradigm for development into the coming decades. My delegation therefore thanks the Secretariat for its work in this area. This is a crucial agenda item for developing countries and we join others in calling for strengthening how this agenda item is considered.
3. As we do so, we recall the importance of UNCTAD's work in building a more prosperous and stable future for humanity including by harnessing trade as an engine for development, a key consideration that needs to be at the forefront of the global agenda. For the Philippines, this includes a focus on inclusive growth. This goal has encouraged our government to actively participate in the international discourse on development and in framing the post-2015 development agenda. The Philippines was one of 66 countries that conducted open, inclusive and transparent consultations with a broad range of stakeholders aimed at generating perspectives and innovative ideas to contribute to the road towards 2015.
4. My government took to this task earnestly by undertaking consultations with over 500 stakeholders representing government, civil society, the business community and the academe. Indeed, this process was built on our national preparatory processes for UNCTAD XII and UNCTAD XIII, underscoring the high priority we place on a holistic and comprehensive approach to development.

Mr. President.

5. UNCTAD's role in the broader development discourse must be carefully examined, and considered. And we in the intergovernmental machinery need to play our mandated role in discussing the great issues confronting us, with a view of making our contributions with related work in other forums. For the Philippines, UNCTAD's role in fostering a more coherent and development-friendly global economic system is of paramount importance. Indeed we continue to aspire for a global economic system that places

development at the center, and that truly respects developing countries by ensuring their right to democracy in international economic decision-making. We also aspire to a holistic development agenda that addresses the essence of development. For the Philippines there are three principal development-related areas that need to be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda.

6. First, we seek a stable global economic system that places development at the center. This requires tackling squarely the realities of the global economic system and addressing the pressing systemic issues that have long been neglected. The aftermath of the global economic and financial crisis was an excellent opportunity to undertake profound and meaningful reforms towards greater systemic coherence. Yet as we have often observed in our deliberations in UNCTAD, much work remains to be done in modernizing the global economic architecture.
7. Second, the post-2015 development agenda should squarely address what is for many countries the most complex development-related phenomenon that they face: migration, a complex issue that is multifaceted. It brings many benefits – for example it helps to keep my country’s economy afloat. It helps to facilitate the transfer of skills and know-how. It helps to raise millions out of poverty. Yet it also has many socio-economic costs: social dislocations; the breakdown of the family; brain drain, and others. Migration is a very real development challenge and we must deal with it candidly and effectively, including in UNCTAD, if we are to address the issue adequately in its full complexity.
8. Third, we need to address the very real developmental implications of the vulnerability of countries to natural and man-made disasters. The post-2015 development agenda should help build resilience including through prevention. And we must put in place mechanisms and facilities to help affected countries rapidly reintegrate into the global economic system to help them minimize the loss of previous development gains. UNCTAD can make an important contribution in this regard, and we recall the useful work that was conducted in the aftermath of the Haiti tragedy.
9. This process of consolidating and articulating a more effective global development agenda is clearly one of great importance and complexity. Yet this is a historic time and historic times call for historic acts of great ambition. In 2000, to celebrate a new millennium, we undertook what was up to that time the most ambitious effort to bring about a better life for those left behind. Perhaps the only way to do justice to that vision, and to that spirit, is to be equal to the challenge and to aspire to even greater heights of cooperation and accomplishment.

Thank you Mr. President.