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# PHILIPPINES

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## STATEMENTS

Delivered by

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At the

**3rd Session**  
**(Sustainable development goals and targets)**  
**Intergovernmental Negotiations**  
**on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**  
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**UNHQ, New York**

**Statement delivered before the Inter-governmental negotiations on the post2015 SDG, 23-27 March, UN Headquarters, NYC**

Thank you co-facilitator.

At the outset, let me say that the Philippines is aligned with the statement made by the Distinguished Ambassador from South Africa on behalf of the G77 and China. I am making these comments on my national capacity.

We would like to commend the UN Statistical Commission and the group of chief and national statisticians for accomplishing so much in so little time. Relatedly, we support their request for additional time to finalize the list of indicators. Perhaps, this extra time can be devoted to more dialogues between statisticians and subject experts like environmental scientists and economists, who may help decide on the matters of suitability and relevance of the indicator.

We also support the statements made by the other representatives specifying other characteristics that the indicators should meet. But, in the interest of parsimony, perhaps it's just a matter of clearly defining what feasibility, suitability and relevance mean.

On relevance, the indicator should exhibit internal consistency in that it has a monotonic relationship with the outcome it is supposed to measure. For instance, target 17.13 talks about enhancing global macroeconomic stability, and one of the indicators suggested is the ratio of the CA surplus and deficit to the GDP. Note, of course, that a sustained trend of either a CA deficit or CA surplus ratio does not imply macroeconomic stability, let alone global macroeconomic stability.

On suitability, system coherence must be maintained and for this, we need to think of the implication of the indicator within the entire post2015 SDG indicator system. Target 17.17 is about encouraging public, public-private and civil society partnerships. On the other hand, the indicators for target 17.1 on strengthening domestic

resource mobilization are the tax effort and the total tax per capita. The implications of these two sets of indicators run counter to each other.

Still on suitability, related to the previous is the subcriterion system integrity. Care must be taken that the indicator does not project an impression that runs contrary to the intent of the post 2015 SDG. For instance, Indicator 9.1.1 which is the % share in total employment of people in business infrastructure, identified to be those in consultancy, accounting, IT and other business services could be taken to mean that this group of individuals is better than the rest since a higher % would mean `progress.`

On feasibility, a major subcriterion should be that the indicator is well-defined. At the very least, it should be defined the same way by two people separated across time. After all, the indicator is supposed to measure progress. Indicator 2.1.1 talks about the `evolution of potentially trade restrictive and distortive measures in agriculture.` The terms `evolution` and `potentially` can be defined in many different ways. In fact, it is not yet an outcome but a potential outcome.

Similar to the interventions of the other member states, we emphasize the need for capacity building to strengthen statistical agencies. The assistance need not be limited to funds to conduct more surveys, after all these funds compete with funds necessary to implement the SDGs themselves. Indicator 1.3.1 talks about statistics disaggregated by sex and pertaining to certain groups: children, unemployed, old age, pregnant women, etc. Getting these statistics would require surveys that have these grouping as sampling domain, each and every one. Another option is to come up with small area estimates, employing bootstrap and other techniques.

And for my last two points; we support the inclusion of a multidimensional poverty index (MPI) which focuses more on outcomes rather than incomes. After all, poverty is a state of being, a state of being deprived of several basic needs.

Finally, I would like to say that we realize that this is very much a work in progress and we commit to actively participate in this process of refining and finalizing the post2015 SDG indicator system.

Thank you.

Statement delivered on 26 March 2015 before the Inter-governmental Negotiations on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals

by Rosemarie G. Edillon, on behalf of the Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection in the Philippines

Thank you, co-facilitator.

The Philippines would like to add its voice to the discussion on the goals and targets related to the environment.

First off, we need to recognize that pollution is the leading cause of death in the developing world, killing at least 8 million people a year. It has severe implications for sustainable development, exacerbates the poverty cycle, harms the environment and biodiversity, causes lifelong disability and stagnates economic growth.

Hence, the Philippines supports:

1. Integrating the sound management of chemicals, wastes and pollution as a contributor to sustainable development in the Declaration as part of the post-2015 Development Agenda;
2. Maintaining the existing text in the draft SDGs related to toxic pollution, to wit:
  - Goal 3, Target 3.9: “by 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution, and contamination”
  - Goal 6, Target 6.3: “by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and increasing recycling and safe reuse by x% globally” (*of course, there is that pesky x, which I personally would like to be well-defined*)
  - Goal 12, Target 12.4: “by 2020, achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle in accordance with agreed international frameworks and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil to minimize their adverse impacts on human health.”
  - Goal 14, Target 14.1: “by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.”

Finally, we would like to reiterate the need to ensure that measurable and technically rigorous indicators for all types of pollution, chemicals and wastes be included in the SDG monitoring framework. In particular, for target 3.9, we think that the proposed indicator is not faithful to the outcome that it is supposed to monitor. In its stead, we would like to suggest

“Death and disability from indoor and outdoor air pollution, polluted water and sanitation, and contaminated sites versus 2012 baseline measured by WHO/IHME Global Burden of Disease methodology.”

This indicator is appropriate as it measures death and disability directly, using a metric ontology well developed in public health circles by WHO, IHME and others. It applies directly to the target. More

importantly, the GBD process is one that continues to be refined and improved, and therefore this indicator will adapt as knowledge on pollution and health develops.

Thank you, co-facilitator.

Statement delivered on 26 March 2015 before the Inter-governmental Negotiations on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals

by Rosemarie G. Edillon,

On the themes for the Interactive Dialogue during the September General Assembly

Thank you, for your indulgence Mr. Co-facilitator.

First of all, let me express my support to the proposed themes. I understand as well that these are just titles and that my comments may have already been considered in the details. However, may I propose that we give emphasis on children and the youth. Talking about sustainable development, I can think of only two ways that we can foretell how our world will be like: first, is how we care for our environment today and second, how we care for the children and the youth.

Thank you.