



PHILIPPINES

Draft PH Statement 2021 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment

Session on Dialogue with resident coordinators: Addressing multidimensional poverty and leaving no one behind through a whole of system approach

9:15am-10:45am, 20 May 2021

Thank you, Excellency.

The Repositioned UN development system has already brought the paradigm shift required to achieve coherence and effective service delivery on the ground. We believe that the UNDS is in a better position now to foster an open and innovative dialogue about the multidimensional concept of development and advance its implementation.

We reiterate that the current methodologies to measure development based on per capita income cannot adequately take into account socioeconomic inequalities, multidimensional poverty, and vulnerabilities to socioeconomic risks. In deciding how best to assist countries, the measure of development should also reflect how governments are able to protect their citizens against the adverse effects of various risks through a whole of system approach.

As a middle-income country, we stress the urgent need for development cooperation partners to recognize the complex realities of our countries. We challenge the validity of modalities used to address development levels inasmuch as the achievement of sustainable development in its three dimensions - economic, social, and environmental - requires working in conditions that go beyond income, such as, among others, equality, inclusion, healthy ecosystems, and access to services.

In the case of the Philippines, we joined the global initiative to develop a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), an index envisioned to complement the country's official income-based poverty statistics. In 2018, our national MPI was launched using initial methodology and with the assistance and guidance of the World Bank and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). We are currently refining the MPI methodology to consider other relevant indicators, taking also into consideration the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to enhance the UNDS response on addressing multidimensional poverty, we would like to hear how the UN system and other development partners can provide support to countries to strengthen the development of statistical capacity, including in improving the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data for measuring progress and what are the significant approaches of UNCT in assisting programme countries to address the issue of multidimensional poverty.

Thank you.

