



# PHILIPPINES

**Statement to be Delivered by  
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and Chargé d' Affaires  
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**During the Main Part of the Seventy-Third Session of the  
Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, 28 November 2018, 10 am**

**Item 136. Programme Budget Biennium 2018-2019: Revised Estimates for the  
Repositioning of the UN Development System**

Madam Chair,

We thank Mr. Chandru Ramanathan, Acting Controller, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, and Mr. Carolos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for the presentation of their reports on the Revised Estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 for the Repositioning of the UN Development System.

We appreciate the hardwork and preparation of the Deputy Secretary General and her team in ensuring the timely and effective implementation of the UN Development System reforms, in particular the Resident Coordinator system.

The Philippines aligns itself with the statement of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We would also like to seize this opportunity to make the following remarks:

1. Our delegation reiterates our strong conviction that the repositioning process

for the reinvigorated RC system should be supported by a realistic funding mechanism. A more stable, robust, predictable and sustainable funding arrangement is needed, one which addresses the decline of core contributions and at the same time assures programme countries that no additional burden is placed on them. Funding should also be aligned with national development priorities and strategies of programme countries with a view to reflecting national ownership of their development. We acknowledge that programme countries must carry their fair share for the successful implementation of the system.

2. For its part, the ACABQ has noted the absence of a unified mechanism for intergovernmental consideration of all aspects of the cost-sharing arrangement. The Committee further states that there would be merit in a unified mechanism for intergovernmental oversight of the global budget process, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 72/279. Our delegation would like to be apprised on the specific benefits from having such a mechanism, aside from possibly being able to conduct an independent and objective performance evaluation free from prejudice and control.

3. The Philippines appreciates the great importance of achieving the efficiency gains envisioned in the report of the Secretary-General projected at \$310 million a year by 2022, and to re-deploy these efficiency gains for development activities. The gains would be achieved through savings from common business operations, common premises, and merger of information centers with resident coordinator offices,

among others. We would like to hear more about ways to streamline staffing patterns and levels of certain positions, which may be redundant and could further boost these expected efficiency gains. The Philippines also supports the proposal of the ACABQ that the next report of the Secretary General on the RC system should provide an update on the efficiency gains achieved.

In closing, Madam Chair, the Philippine delegation affirms that the UNDS reform is central and a priority undertaking for the entire UN system. The RCS, being an integral part of this reform, needs to strengthen accountability and transparency, as well as ensure an adequate, stable and predictable funding base to guarantee its smooth and effective operations beginning 2019.

Thank you, Madam Chair.