



# PHILIPPINES

**Statement Delivered by  
H.E. TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR.  
Permanent Representative of the Philippines  
to the United Nations**

**During the Main Part of the Seventy-Third Session of the  
Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, 10 October 2018**

**Item 147. Report on the Activities of the Office of the Internal Oversight Services  
for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018**

**Item 136. Report on the Activities of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee  
For the period from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018**

Madam Chair,

The Philippines aligns itself with the Statement of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We thank Assistant-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, Mr. David Kanja, for his presentation of the annual report of the OIOS. We are grateful for the leadership of Under-Secretary-General Heidi Mendoza in improving the office and its functions. We thank the Chairman of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, Ms. Grace Pulido-Tan, for introducing her Committee's annual report, and for her assessments.

Madam Chair, the Philippines accords great importance to the work of the OIOS. We acknowledge the efforts of the Office to keep to the highest

standards of professionalism and efficiency its work of strengthening the organization. We note its initiatives to bolster the functioning of the office and effectively deliver on its mandate; such as:

- Internal Audit Division, where OIOS enhanced and streamlined its work planning process to ensure the Division's workplan focused on areas where fraud can thrive; ICT, effectiveness and efficiency issues, as well as topical issues like Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and organizational culture;
- Inspection and Evaluation Division, through which 6 non-peacekeeping evaluations were issued. We note the positive efforts of the OIOS to use these evaluations in promoting meaningful organizational change; and the effective and efficient implementation of the organization's mandates;
- Investigations Division, on which there were 341 reported cases pertaining to non-peacekeeping operations from July 2017 to June 2018. These represented an increase of 46 per cent over the previous year. The spike in reporting was significant, given the average 15 per cent annual increase seen in the previous three reporting cycles. The Division has also seen a marked increase in sexual harassment reporting, following the Secretary-General's reiteration of his commitment to zero tolerance of the same. The Division also investigated multiple fraud and corruption cases of high-level officials.

The Philippines agrees that the Independent Audit Advisory Committee has provided significant comments and inputs on how the OIOS can establish itself as a trusted advisor of its clients. Noting the divergent expectations between members of management and OIOS on performance audit, we agree that creating a balance between compliance and performance audits would be useful in meeting their respective mandates.

We note the Committee's observations on the role of the OIOS in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the steps it has taken with respect to the SDGs, including focusing on emerging risks related to gender mainstreaming and gender parity issues; and assessing the extent UN entities go to mainstream the SDGs in their national programs.

We commend the cooperation between IAAC and OIOS and other senior management in the Secretariat, especially in accessing documents and other information needed for the Committee's work, without breaching autonomy. We encourage the OIOS and IAAC to go on working closely with JIU and BOA in a timely manner to ensure accountability and efficiency.

Thank you.