

Philippine Intervention
Agenda item 21: Decentralized Office Networks
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The Philippines supports FAO management's continuous efforts to boost operational efficiencies through the decentralization of key management and operational processes, increased delegations of authority, improved monitoring and evaluation and reporting capacities at the country level, and the strengthening of internal control system.

We understand that the recent change introduced by the Director General into a more modular and flexible organizational structure is aimed at efficiency, effectiveness and cross-sectoral collaboration, including in decentralized offices. In this regard, we concur with the request of the 164th session of the FAO Council for headquarters to continue its full support to decentralized offices to ensure the organization's impact at the regional, subregional and country levels.

We appreciate FAO's recognition of the diversity of country needs in the region, to which the decentralized offices require flexibility, a dynamic skill set and alternative ways of working to help members achieve their development goals. For instance, middle income countries like the Philippines, would need more support in policy advocacy and resource mobilization, to address increasingly complex problems and transborder challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, African Swine Fever, Fall Armyworm, and the Banana Wilt Disease (TR4).

We encourage FAO's enhancement of inclusive partnership, at the regional and country levels, with other UN partners, the private sector, civil society, parliamentarians, academia and other non-state actors, including smallholders and family farmers. For instance, we commend FAO's initiative in strengthening the FAO-Legislative Advisory Group in the Philippines (FLAGPH) and in collaborating with NGOs such as the AFA, ANGOC, and AsiaDHRRA.

The region would further benefit from optimizing cooperation with the youth and private sector, particularly in innovations and technology to harness digital agriculture. We therefore welcome the thrust for decentralized offices to be fully engaged in the FAO digitalization process and promotion of innovations in the field to accelerate progress in delivering the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.