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CSTD 2022-2023 priority theme on "Technology and innovation for cleaner and more productive and competitive production"

Statement submitted by

The Philippines

PHILIPPINES

Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)
2022-2023 Intersessional Panel Meeting

Theme 1: Technology and Innovation for Cleaner and More Productive and Competitive Production

Delivered by H.E. Renato U. Solidum, Jr.
Secretary, Department of Science and Technology

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Excellencies,

The Philippines recognizes the crucial role of green technology innovation in economic growth as well as environment conservation and protection. It is also important to acknowledge several technologies that are necessary in green transformation such as artificial intelligence, internet of things, and blockchain.

As also experienced by other developing countries, the Philippines, however, faces challenges in promoting green technology due to its high cost, especially felt by the Micro-, Small-, and Medium Enterprises. As there are only few manufacturers of green technologies in the country, the supply becomes limited which results to higher cost of available green technologies such as storage of energy and solar cells/panels.

In the private sector, although gains had been made through implementing good housekeeping practices, investments in more innovative and cleaner production technologies have yet to be fully realized. Even before the onset of the pandemic, industries need financial resources to make such investments.

In order to catch up with green transition, the Philippines has been putting in place necessary institutional frameworks and policies that would encourage key actors in the society to subscribe to cleaner production through green technologies and innovation. The Philippines' Renewable Energy Act of 2008 aims to accelerate development of renewable energy sources by establishing an enabling

environment and providing incentives for technology adoption. The Green Jobs Act of 2016 promotes sustainable growth, creates green jobs, and builds resilience against climate change through incentives to businesses generating green jobs.

It is essential to strengthen technical and innovation capacity and build knowledge. The Philippines' Department of Science and Technology (DOST) provides technological, technical, and financial support to public research and development programs in line with green technology and innovation. Concrete outputs of these projects and programs include the deployment of solar energy systems in rural health units nationwide which also ignited interest in various agencies in the provinces to adopt the technology.

The DOST also implements the program "Niche Centers in the Regions for R&D" that allows the country's academic and R&D institutions to upgrade their research facilities, develop policies, transfer technologies, and ramp up regional initiatives and efforts toward a competitive innovation ecosystem. The country also conducts cleaner production assessments and clean energy audits.

The DOST further invests in innovation by helping MSMEs in addressing financial constraints through its Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program or "SETUP". SETUP provides seed funds for technology, equipment and its upgrading, and technical training and consultancy services, among others. The DOST-National Research Council of the Philippines also implements the Alternative Energy Research Trends or "ALERT" program that aims to investigate alternative energy sources in the Philippines.

Excellencies,

The Philippines believes that national governments, with support of the international community and other stakeholders, should continue to craft and expand national policies and institutional frameworks to promote green transition. One of the strategies could be incentivizing the users of green technologies through financial grants, subsidies, and tax reliefs to encourage them to produce more. Capacity building activities are needed to upskill and prepare the manufacturing sector to adopt technology outputs from research and development institutes. Cleaner production would significantly contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you.