

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines

Senate

Manila City

Nineteenth Congress

Third Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 140

RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION OF
THE HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES AND THE INTERNATIONAL FUND
FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF IFAD'S COUNTRY OFFICE

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 21 of the Philippine Constitution states that, "No treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate";

WHEREAS, the Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the International Fund for Agricultural Development on the Establishment of IFAD's Country Office (HCA) was signed on 7 May 2019 in Rome, Italy;

WHEREAS, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which was established during the 1974 World Food Conference with over 177 Member States, is an international financial institution and a specialized agency of

the United Nations based in Rome, Italy, focused on addressing poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries;

WHEREAS, the HCA aims to facilitate the establishment of the IFAD's office in Manila to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the IFAD's service delivery to the Philippines, particularly in supporting the government's efforts to eradicate poverty, attain food security, and achieve rural development;

WHEREAS, the HCA addresses major administrative and logistical challenges currently encountered by the IFAD, and frees up resources that can be allocated to programs that directly benefit the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the HCA provides that the Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall apply the provisions of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies in relation to the privileges, immunities, exemptions, and facilities to be granted to IFAD officials;

WHEREAS, the HCA provides that the premises of the IFAD Office to be established in the country shall be inviolable, and the property and assets of the Office, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation, and any other form of interference, whether it be executive, administrative, judicial, or legislative action;

WHEREAS, the HCA will enable the IFAD to work closely with government partners and relevant stakeholders, for the purpose of implementing projects and initiatives that directly contribute to the advancement of *AmBisyon Natin 2040* and the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028;

WHEREAS, the President of the Philippines ratified the HCA on 2 October 2023 and has submitted it to the Senate for concurrence, in accordance with the Constitution of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, in the hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on 16 April 2024, the following government agencies endorsed the concurrence to the ratification of the HCA:

- (1) Department of Foreign Affairs;
- (2) Department of Finance;
- (3) Department of Justice;
- (4) Department of Agriculture;
- (5) Department of Trade and Industry;
- (6) Bureau of Internal Revenue;

- (7) Bureau of Immigration; and
- (8) National Economic and Development Authority:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To concur in the Philippine ratification of the Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the International Fund for Agricultural Development on the Establishment of IFAD's Country Office (HCA).

Resolved, further, That Paragraph 7, Article III should be read in the context of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of United Nations Specialized Agencies. Both Conventions provide that consultants, experts, and specialists engaged by the United Nations are accorded the same jurisdictional immunity granted to United Nations officials to ensure the independent exercise of their functions during the period of their missions, including the time spent on journeys in connection with their missions. This includes immunity in respect of words spoken or written and acts done by them in the course of the performance of their mission, and from legal process of every kind.

Resolved, finally, That the President of the Philippines may, with the concurrence of the Senate, withdraw from the HCA.

Adopted,



FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on September 3, 2024.



RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.
Secretary of the Senate