

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

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SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. 1148

24 AUG 13 P12:11

RECEIVED BY: *LSV*

Prepared by the Committee on Foreign Relations

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"**

1 **WHEREAS**, Article VII, Section 21 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states
2 that, "No treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless
3 concurred in by at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate";

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

8 **WHEREAS**, the International Fund for Agricultural Development ("IFAD"),
9 which was established during the 1974 World Food Conference and currently has over
10 177 Member States, is an international financial institution and a specialized agency
11 of the United Nations based in Rome, Italy, focused on addressing poverty and hunger
12 in rural areas of developing countries;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 23 1. Department of Foreign Affairs;
- 24 2. Department of Finance;
- 25 3. Department of Justice;
- 26 4. Department of Agriculture;
- 27 5. Department of Trade and Industry;
- 28 6. Bureau of Internal Revenue;
- 29 7. Bureau of Immigration; and

1 8. National Economic and Development Authority.

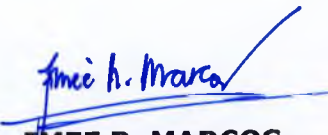
2 ***Now, therefore, be it***

3 ***RESOLVED***, That the Senate of the Philippines concur, as it hereby concurs,
4 in the Philippine ratification of the *Host Country Agreement between the Government*
5 *of the Republic of the Philippines and the International Fund for Agricultural*
6 *Development on the Establishment of IFAD's Country Office;*

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

17 ***RESOLVED, finally***, That the President of the Philippines may, with the
18 concurrence of the Senate, withdraw from the Treaty.

Adopted,


IMEE R. MARCOS