



S E N A T E

P. S. Res. No. 1148

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 Philippine
2 Constitution states that, "No treaty or international
3 agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in
4 by at least two-thirds of all the Members of the Senate";

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

1 WHEREAS, the International Fund for Agricultural
2 Development (IFAD), which was established during the
3 1974 World Food Conference with over 177 Member States,
4 is an international financial institution and a specialized
5 agency of the United Nations based in Rome, Italy, focused
6 on addressing poverty and hunger in rural areas of
7 developing countries;

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

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

18 WHEREAS, the HCA provides that the Government of
19 the Republic of the Philippines shall apply the provisions

1 of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the
2 Specialized Agencies in relation to the privileges,
3 immunities, exemptions, and facilities to be granted to
4 IFAD officials;

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

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

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

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

9 (1) Department of Foreign Affairs;

10 (2) Department of Finance;

11 (3) Department of Justice;

12 (4) Department of Agriculture;

13 (5) Department of Trade and Industry;

14 (6) Bureau of Internal Revenue;

15 (7) Bureau of Immigration; and

16 (8) National Economic and Development Authority:

17 Now, therefore, be it

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

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

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

Adopted,