



the increase in the overall number of staff of the Secretariat by 0.7% from 2019 to 2020, driven by the inclusion in the Secretariat of 609 staff from the Resident Coordinator System (RCS)<sup>3</sup> under the development system reforms of the Secretary General. We hope that improvements on human resource mobilization in the RCS will continue to make the UN more relevant to the development needs of the countries concerned as well as to ensure a coherent United Nations response, especially in view of the lingering effect of the pandemic to our people.

3. Amidst all these efforts, our delegation underscores the importance of an inclusive workforce, which has always been a key element of the Secretary General's reform initiatives. The Philippines acknowledges the improvements made on gender parity of the organization, especially at the senior level positions for the past years. For example, the increase in the ratio of women to total staff in the Professional and higher, and Field Service categories from 37.6% to 40.9% during the period 2016-2020; and the launching of the talent pool initiative to better leverage female workforce within the United Nations common system. We look forward to hearing updates on these initiatives especially in terms of measuring their performance levels and delivery of outcomes.

4. Notwithstanding the improvements made on strengthening female workforce in the UN Secretariat, the Philippines encourages the Secretary General to step up his efforts to ensure a gender-balanced,

---

<sup>3</sup> A/76/570

world-class international workforce.

5. Our delegation is of the view that the commitment to gender parity should encompass female staff not only in the UN headquarters but also in the field. Peacekeeping has evolved through the years to protect the increasing population it serves in various regions. Women participation has truly made a positive impact on peacekeeping

strategies to attract, recruit and retain persons with disabilities.

9. On UN internships, the Philippines requests the Secretary General to implement more concrete measures to ensure diversity among UN interns as well as a conducive and hostile-free work environment, with coherent quality standards and protection mechanisms against any possible harassment or abuse in the office.

The Philippines looks forward to having constructive discussions on the above issues in the hope of achieving an outcome this session.

I, thank you, Mr. Chair.