

**UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
UNIFORMED CAPABILITIES, PERFORMANCE, AND PROTECTION**

29 MARCH 2019 (FRIDAY)
NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT (SND)

MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL, EXCELLENCIES,

IN OCTOBER 1946, THE LATE PHILIPPINE STATESMAN, GENERAL CARLOS P. ROMULO, ADDRESSED THE 41ST PLENARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND HE SAID:

“WE ARE NOT HERE TO MAKE THE PEACE, BUT TO BUILD FOR PEACE. WE ARE NOT HERE TO AVENGE THE INJURIES OF THE PAST, BUT TO FULFILL HUMANITY’S HOPES FOR THE FUTURE. WE ARE NOT HERE TO REAP AND DIVIDE THE HARVEST OF VICTORY, BUT TO MAKE READY THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF MEN FOR THE SEEDS OF PEACE.”

TODAY, WE ARE HERE NOT ONLY TO MEET HEAD-ON THE CHALLENGES TO PEACE BUT ALSO TO ANSWER THE CALL FOR INVESTING IN AND SUSTAINING PEACE. SINCE 1963, THE PHILIPPINES HAS NEVER WAVERED NOR FALTERED IN ITS COMMITMENT TO PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS.

THE PHILIPPINES IS READY TO INCREASE ITS ENGAGEMENT IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO ALLOW THE DEPLOYMENT OF MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL IN ANY AREA REGARDLESS OF THE SECURITY THREAT LEVEL.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT OUR PLEDGES UNDER THE UN PEACEKEEPING READINESS SYSTEM ARE MET. OUR GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO MAKE AVAILABLE ALL NECESSARY RESOURCES FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS WITHIN THE AGREED RESPONSE TIME. OUR ARMED FORCES IS CURRENTLY ENHANCING CAPABILITIES IN SUPPORT OF FUTURE PEACEKEEPING DEPLOYMENTS.

WE WELCOME THE ESTABLISHMENT BY THE UN DEPARTMENT OF PEACE OPERATIONS OF CLEAR PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS BASED ON REGULAR PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS OF PEACEKEEPING UNITS.

EXCELLENCIES,

THIS YEAR, THE PHILIPPINES HAS 90 MILITARY OBSERVERS AND PEACEKEEPING STAFF, ONE (1) FORCE HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT UNIT, AND ONE (1) AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION TEAM TO THE UN PEACEKEEPING CAPABILITY READINESS SYSTEM.

THE PHILIPPINES JOINS THE UN IN CALLING FOR MORE FEMALE PEACEKEEPERS TO ENHANCE THE HOLISTIC APPROACH TO PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. MORE SKILLED AND TRAINED FEMALE PEACEKEEPERS ARE VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. THE PHILIPPINES COMMITS TO DEPLOY MORE FEMALE PEACEKEEPERS IN THE FUTURE.

FINALLY, THE PHILIPPINES MAINTAINS ITS POSITION THAT SUCCESS IN PKO MUST BE MEASURED BY HOW WELL **WE PROTECT CIVILIANS, ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN, AND THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE.** IN THIS REGARD, THE PHILIPPINES

SUPPORTS THE VANCOUVER PRINCIPLES ESPECIALLY IN THE PREVENTION OF CHILD RECRUITMENT IN CONFLICT AREAS.

WE ASSURE THE UN THAT OUR PERSONNEL WILL BE FOLLOWING VERY STRICT STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR PEACEKEEPING DUTIES. WE HAVE ALSO ADOPTED A MORE STRINGENT CRITERIA IN THE SELECTION OF PEACEKEEPING CANDIDATES.

EXCELLENCIES,

THE PHILIPPINES STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS IN FOSTERING SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE SUCCESS OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. WE RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO THE DECLARATION OF SHARED COMMITMENT ON UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS ALONG THE ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING OR THE A4P INITIATIVE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.