



COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

**ORAL STATEMENT DURING THE 16TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES**

April 20, 2017

United Nations Headquarters, New York City

by

Gwendolyn Ll. Pimentel-Gana
Commissioner

Good Morning Your Honors and Participants to this Forum.

In our earlier interventions, we have expressed our views on the situation of the Filipino Indigenous Peoples (IPs). At this point, we intend to share our plans on how we will ensure the protection and promotion of Indigenous Peoples' rights, pursuant to our mandate as a National Human Rights Institution. We are mandated to monitoring the human rights conditions of IPs particularly in the observance of their Right to Development. The justification to monitor is not limited to documenting human rights cases, but to promote full realization of human rights through positive changes.¹ More so, we see the need for the consolidation of data pertaining to the IPs, which are references for the government in making policies and decisions that are truly reflective of their aspirations. Therefore, the CHRP on June 2017 will conduct a Public inquiry on the following thematic concerns, among others:

- The protection and promotion of the IPs' land and cultural rights;

¹ Sourced from National Human Rights Institutions: History, Principles, Roles and Responsibilities, Professional Training Series NO. 4 (Rev. 1), United Nations, Geneva, April 2011.

- The effectiveness of the current government process to obtain the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of IPs;
- The state of economic and social development of IPs in the Philippines;

The CHRP will also establish the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Observatory (IPRO). The IPRO is an independent source of data that will identify the impact of government policies, programs and projects to the realization of IPs human rights. Likewise, it shall gather data and statistics on IPs and document the application and practice of customary laws.

Through the IPRO, IPs' participation in development planning, implementation and monitoring shall be given full space. It shall also cater to the study of IP rights in the Southeast Asian region with the cooperation of course, of the other NHRIs in the area.

The CHRP is likewise developing the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights monitoring tools that will measure the realization and fulfilment of the ESC Rights of the Filipino people especially the IPs.

With these programs, the CHRP hopes to promote the dignity of all IPs.

Thank You, Maraming Salamat.