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**PHILIPPINES**

**Intervention by  
H.E. Mrs. Cecilia B. Rebong  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Philippines  
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**27th session of the Human Rights Council  
Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)  
17 September 2014**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Philippines congratulates Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz on her appointment as Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, and notes with appreciation her commitment to fulfill her mandate in an impartial and constructive manner. We thank her for the presentation of her first report to the Council, outlining her preliminary reflections and her vision related to her work, and citing possible obstacles to the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples.

We concur with the Special Rapporteur that numerous challenges remain despite significant advances in this area. We support her call for collaborative efforts between Governments and other stakeholders to address challenges and constraints in the fulfillment of IP rights.

We wish to hear the views of the Special Rapporteur and the members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of IPs (EMRIP) on how their respective mandates could help enhance or develop constructive cooperation and engagement between, and among, Governments and other actors or stakeholders, to encourage them to work together to promote and protect IP rights.

Mr. President, we wish to acknowledge as well the efforts exerted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples. We note OHCHR's contributions to discussions related to the upcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and in advancing the rights of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

Mr. President, recognizing the need to increase awareness among local communities about the rights of indigenous peoples and their roles in the advancement of a community, in the preservation of culture, traditions, and the environment, we believe that efforts to build the capacity of national and local agencies in addressing the human rights concerns of IPs have to be supported and encouraged. Keeping the lines of communication open between the Government, the IP communities and relevant stakeholders is critical to ensure continued constructive dialogue and positive engagement. Only by working together could we fully achieve our common aspirations of peace and development.

Thank you, Mr. President.