



PHILIPPINES

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement delivered by
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During the 15th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
UN Headquarters, New York, 11 May 2016

The rights and protection of indigenous peoples are guaranteed by the Philippine Constitution and by law. Republic Act No. 8371, known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) recognizes indigenous peoples' inherent rights, including their right to self-governance and self-determination; to ancestral domains and the applicability of customary laws governing property rights; to freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development; and to the requirement that free prior informed consent be obtained in relation to any developments that have an impact on them.

The state promotes the full participation of indigenous peoples in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies, plans and programs that may directly affect them for local, regional and national development. At present, there are 2,708 IP representatives in various local legislative and special bodies.

The flagship program of the Philippines for social development is the conditional cash transfer program called the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program of 4Ps. It is a program that targets families that are most vulnerable to poverty. The program's two objectives are to provide social assistance, giving monetary support to extremely poor families to meet basic and immediate needs and to promote social development, breaking the intergenerational poverty cycle by investing in the health and education of poor children. As of August 2015, there were 4,353,597 active household-beneficiaries, of which 570,056 are indigenous households. This year, there will be an additional 184,000 indigenous household beneficiaries.

Complementing the 4Ps is our Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT) Program, which is specially designed to reach out to families in need of special protection, including itinerant indigenous families as well as indigenous peoples in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. The program seeks to facilitate their

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access to health, education, and other basic services through direct grants and other support services interventions. As of June 2015, there were 218,377 active registered households, of which 163,950 are IP households and 488 are itinerant IP households.

Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services or Kalahi-CIDSS is another poverty alleviation program of the Philippines. It provides communities, including indigenous communities, the opportunity to identify and implement projects that would address their basic needs. One of these projects is the construction of 135 classrooms in new public schools to be established in indigenous communities in southern Philippines. Decision-making rests in the hands of the indigenous communities from selecting the idea of building classrooms to choosing the school's name, design and other aspects of project implementation allowing them to incorporate their culture and practices. They consult the wisdom of the elders and the community as a whole thus strengthening community ties and reinforcing their cultural traditions.

Our government is committed to providing access to an inclusive and culture-based education to every indigenous learner in the country through continued efforts in enhancing the implementation of the Department of Education's National Indigenous Peoples Education or IPEd Policy Framework and strengthening the capacity of our public schools and learning programs to deliver such services.

Recognizing the right of indigenous peoples to culturally-rooted and responsive basic education, the Department of Education adopted last year the IPEd Curriculum Framework, which seeks to provide guidance to schools and other education programs as they engage with indigenous communities in contextualizing the new K to 12 curriculum based on their respective educational and social environments.

The Philippine government remains committed to the protection and full realization of its peoples' basic human rights, especially the most vulnerable in society. As we embark on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we will make sure that our indigenous brothers and sisters are not left behind.

Thank you for your attention.