



PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF THE DELEGATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

1st Session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 29 June 2006

Mr. President,

The Philippine Government is fully committed to safeguarding ^{abiding} and upholding ^{and promoting} the rights of its indigenous peoples. Because of this commitment, the Philippine Government ~~has~~ ~~already~~ enacted a national Indigenous People's Rights Act and has two autonomous regions in the country.

~~We commend the Working Group Chair, Mr. Chavez for his work.~~

^{therefore} We ~~also~~ empathize with the concerns of representatives of indigenous peoples' and their desire that the Human Rights Council forward to the General Assembly at this session the draft UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. But we believe that the latest text of the draft declaration merits more time for study.

~~We commend the Working Group Chair, Mr. Luis Enrique Chavez~~ ^{for his work} ~~but~~ ^{we} believe the ~~draft declaration~~ ^{latest text of the draft declaration} merits a ~~more~~ ^{truly} ~~bit more~~ ^{meaningful and holistic} time for study. The Philippine Government, while favorably disposed to the substance of ~~the declaration as a whole~~ ^{many parts of the draft}, ~~also~~ ^{we} wished for more time to study the new ~~text~~ ^{and} and provide an opportunity for concerned national agencies – those which would eventually oversee the implementation of the declaration – to discuss the language of ~~key~~ ^{certain} provisions and their ~~implications~~ ^{legal and policy}.

Thank you, Mr. President.

~~Chair's proposal~~ ^{in order to} ~~of the draft UN Declaration~~

Mr. President, ~~about~~ ^{we regret} ~~that this~~ ^{issue} ~~had to~~ ^{come to} ~~be~~ ^{revised} ~~apart~~ ^{apart}.

~~but~~ ^{we} believe the ~~draft declaration~~ ^{latest text of the draft declaration} merits a ~~more~~ ^{bit more} time for study. We also wanted to be sure that the