



PHILIPPINES

48TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Interactive Dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

28 September 2021

Speaking time : 1 min and 30 seconds

Mme President,

The Philippines supports the Expert Mechanism's recommendation on enabling indigenous peoples to speak on their issues at international fora and be protected from reprisals.

This resonates with calls across the UN and human rights mechanisms to vitally include indigenous communities in all national, regional and global discourse on the IP agenda.

In the Philippine context, the problem has been about some misrepresentation of our IPs in global discussions rather than lack of it. Alarmed by complaints from our indigenous community on the misrepresentation and exploitation of IP issues by certain interest groups, the government has actively facilitated direct dialogues between our indigenous communities and the UN.

Our voluntary contribution to the UN trust fund on IPs attests to our advocacy for their greater participation in UN processes.

We share EMRIP's concern on the increasing threat of violence experienced by indigenous children from armed non-state actors. In the Philippines, the terrorist group CPP-NPA-NDF has hijacked the IP rights agenda --- illegally occupying ancestral lands, running pseudo-schools for fund-raising and recruiting child soldiers – and systematically silencing IPs who speak out against their atrocities and work with government. Due diligence is called for against such practices which obscure the legitimate voices of the rights-holders themselves.

And so we ask: what measures can be done to safeguard the UN human rights space from non-state actors that misrepresent themselves as IP rights defenders but in reality are IP rights abusers?

I thank you, Chair. END.