



PHILIPPINES

Statement delivered by

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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**During the General Discussion on the
“Discussion on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic & social
development, culture, environment, education, health and human rights) with reference
to the UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)”
(Item 4)**

**20th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Excellencies.

Three years before the establishment of this Permanent Forum and a decade prior to the adoption of the UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples Rights or UNDRIP, the Philippines already set the landmark Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 or IPRA as its national framework that holistically embraces all the six areas that are also reflected in the UNDRIP.

The Philippines’ commitment to the implementation of the IPRA has not abated despite the raging pandemic. Early this year, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), a State mechanism mandated to represent and cater to IPs beefed up its efforts to empower IPs through the ‘Recognize, Respect, and Promote’ coffee table books under the Project “Epanaw” or “Journey”.

Providing the story of IPs through their own eyes, the books are the most authoritative, accurate, and comprehensive anthology of ethnographic information that we have in the Philippines today. They memorialize IP identities, knowledge, systems, practices, and rituals, and also highlight the importance of protecting their ancestral domains towards correcting historical injustice done to them.

The project is one of the many ways through the which the Philippines is advancing the four bundles of rights that are enshrined in the IPRA: rights to ancestral domain, rights to self-governance and empowerment, rights to social justice and human rights, and rights to cultural integrity.

The Philippines remains fully committed to the implementation of the six mandated areas of UNDRIP and calls on the international community to join hands towards the genuine respect for, promotion, and protection of the rights of IPs worldwide.

Thank you.