



PHILIPPINES

51ST REGULAR SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL Interactive Dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) 28 September 2022

Speaking time : 1 min and 30 seconds

Mr. President,

The Philippines thanks the Expert Mechanism for its study on the rights of indigenous peoples.

We recognize that constructive arrangements and constitutional recognition are essential components in realizing the aspiration of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In the Philippines, our 1987 Constitution protects the rights of indigenous peoples within the framework of national unity and development, including protecting their access to their ancestral lands. The importance of protecting indigenous and ethnic ancestral domains informed the creation of the Cordillera Administrative Region and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The Constitution also provides for their representation in our Congress, as well as the creation of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, a government agency tasked to promote IP self-governance, cultural integrity, social justice and human rights. Through such initiatives, the Philippines is putting in place stronger foundations towards the greater empowerment of our indigenous peoples, overcoming our limited financial resources and socio-economic challenges.

We therefore ask, how can the Expert Mechanism and the OHCHR lend further support and technical assistance, especially to developing and middle income countries, in scaling up existing national programs and institutions for indigenous peoples?

Thank you, Mr. President. **END**