



PHILIPPINES

Statement delivered by

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

H.E. ALLEN A. CAPUYAN
Chairperson, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

**During the General Discussion on the
“Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples
and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”
(Item 5d)**

**20th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
19-30 April 2021**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Philippines acknowledges the work of the Special Rapporteur and the Expert Mechanism in advancing the cause of indigenous peoples worldwide.

The Philippines actively engages with the two mechanisms. In August 2020, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) organized a virtual forum on “Voices from the Ancestral Lands” which facilitated direct dialogue between our indigenous peoples and UN system officials and experts. The Philippines also responds to communications and requests for inputs by the Special Rapporteur on various IP concerns. While in December 2020, the NCIP actively participated in the 13th EMRIP Session–Asia-Pacific Group Meeting.

In all of its engagements, the Philippines shares its continuing efforts to promote, protect, and fulfill the human rights of IPs pursuant to the landmark Indigenous People’s Rights Act (IPRA) and relevant international instruments. The Philippines also seeks to raise awareness and understanding by the international community of the distinct context and challenges faced by IPs in the Philippines, particularly their exploitation by certain groups using the noble mantle of “IP defenders” or “human rights defenders” to conceal their violent acts and goals.

In this regard, the Philippines is committed to dialogue and constructive engagement with UN mechanisms on IP issues. It is hoped that UN mechanisms will also exercise objectivity, transparency, and due diligence in assessing information regarding the true situation of IPs in the country.

Thank you.