



PHILIPPINES

**PHILIPPINE STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 141
ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR 2021
ON THE REVISED ESTIMATES FROM RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AT ITS 43rd, 44th AND 45th SESSIONS**

**TO BE DELIVERED BY AMB. ENRIQUE A. MANALO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE
UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK
17 December 2020**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have the honor to speak on agenda item 141: Proposed Programme Budget 2021 on the Revised Estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council (HRC) at its 43rd, 44th and 45th sessions in Geneva this year, inclusive of the HRC Resolution 45/33, titled “*Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Philippines.*”

At the outset, the Philippines would like to thank Mr. Chandramouli Ramanathan, Controller, Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Finance and Budget, for his presentation of the report of the Secretary-General as contained in document A/75/588, as well as Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), for the related report of the Advisory Committee.

Mr Chair, on 7 October 2020, at the closure of its 45th session, the Human Rights Council in Geneva adopted the resolution, “*Technical cooperation and capacity-building for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines,*” which endorses UN technical support for the country’s efforts to further strengthen its human rights and accountability mechanisms.

The unanimous decision to adopt the resolution recognizes the Philippines’ domestic institutions to address alleged cases of human rights violations in the country. The decision also acknowledges the Philippines’ strong and open engagement with the United Nations, and promotes the provision of technical assistance from UN agencies and international partners in areas such as rule of law, justice, law enforcement, and accountability processes, at the invitation of the Government and in accordance with national priorities.

Based on the resolution, the Human Right Council requested the High Commissioner and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide support for the country on the continued fulfilment of its international human rights obligations and commitments and requested the High Commissioner to present an oral update to the Human Rights Council at its forty-eighth session in 2021 and to submit a report to the Council at its fifty-first session in 2022, to be discussed in an enhanced interactive dialogue, with the

participation of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, on the implementation of the present resolution.

Mr. Chair, the implementation of the said resolution has given rise to additional one-time resource requirements for 2021 and 2022, which amounts to \$414,100 to be approved by the Fifth Committee at this session.

Indeed, the Philippines reiterates that it promotes the judicious and prudent use of deploying resources, especially at this current financial crisis of the organization. We support the OHCHR's initiatives to efficiently utilize its meager resources and spend them on activities, which can make a difference on the ground and benefit the larger majority of peoples around the world, such as a technical cooperation.

As the resolution will undergo discussion within the Fifth Committee with regard to its budget implications before its final adoption at the said Committee and General Assembly levels, my delegation just would like to seek clarification on the specific requirements for establishing the General Temporary Assistance (GTA) posts based in Manila as well as the criteria for appointing people in the GTA posts.

Moreover, cognizant of the fact that the kind of technical assistance and capacity building, which can be provided will actually depend on the needs of the country, our delegation wishes to be apprised on the process for determining the kind of assistance and capacity building that will be afforded to the Philippines to support its human rights agenda.

Mr. Chair,

Our delegation notes the participation of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) based in the Philippines, who will be traveling along with the other experts, to attend the interactive dialogue at the fifty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva in 2022. The Philippines appreciates the RC's cooperation with the United Nations, including through the multi-year UN Joint Program on Human Rights, which is being discussed with the Resident Coordinator.

In closing, Mr. Chair, our delegation reiterates our support to various efforts geared toward upholding the fundamental principles of human rights, and promoting common interest to protect the principles of objectivity and non-interference in carrying out our duties and responsibilities for our people.

Having said that, the Philippines reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations and its various activities aimed at upholding the Council's mandate to respect, protect and fulfill human rights.

I thank you.