



PHILIPPINES

Fifth Committee Opening Session (Organization of Work)
3.00 pm, Monday, 5 October 2020

PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

by
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to the United Nations

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as Chair of the Fifth Committee. We are convinced that under your leadership, we will have a successful session.

We thank Mr. Abdallah Bachar Bong, Chairman of the ACABQ, and the Committee for their invaluable assistance.

My delegation aligns itself with the Statements made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by Singapore on behalf of ASEAN. I will attempt to minimize reiterating the points they raised.

Mr. Chair, as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the UN, the Philippine delegation takes this opportunity to acknowledge the UN's response to help countries as well as their vulnerable populations mostly affected by the pandemic and assist them in planning for recovery.

In our view, the Fifth Committee needs to address at this session several issues of major importance. These include, among others:

1. Financial resources serve as the foundation for the implementation of UN mandates. The Organization cannot perform its duties without sufficient resources. Since the COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected many nations, they unsurprisingly will have difficulty paying their contributions. We call on Member States, who have the capacity to pay, to fulfill their legal obligations in accordance with the UN Charter by paying their assessed contributions in full, on time, and without conditions.
2. My delegation hopes this session can achieve positive outcomes on the agenda on funding and backstopping of Special Political Missions (SPMs). Discussions on this

important item have been deferred for several years now. We reiterate the crucial role of SPMs, but certain financing arrangements have posed challenges to their Missions' capacity to fully operate. Despite this, the PH welcomes the efforts of SPMs and PKOs to adapt to working arrangements under our new conditions and continue their support to local authorities including in the united call to combat the pandemic.

3. On the current working arrangements, our delegation recognizes the necessity for a hybrid mode of work. While we utilized the virtual platform in the first and second resumed sessions of the 74th UNGA, we see the need for in-person meetings this session to sufficiently tackle priority issues, including Programme Planning and the Proposed Programme Budget for 2021. As such, we stand ready to support the Chair and the Secretariat's initiatives to ensure the availability of safe physical space to conduct these in-person meetings.
4. We are also aware of certain technical limitations in providing interpretation services and conference room availability. However, we hope that efforts will be explored to provide these services.
5. In light of the increased use of virtual meetings or videoconferences and other technological tools, our delegation urges that sufficient cybersecurity measures in the United Nations should be put in place to protect the conduct and integrity of our work.
6. Our delegation echoes the perennial call of Member States to receive reports in all 6 official languages in a timely manner, according to the rules of procedure, so as not to hamper our work.
7. The Philippines looks forward to the discussions on the review of progress regarding the implementation of management reform, despite the challenges being experienced.
8. While the Secretary General's initiatives on management reform have gained momentum, our delegation acknowledges that more work is needed to fully realize their potential. We reiterate our support to the SG's commitment of transparency and accountability to this Assembly, to achieve the needed reforms for the organization.

In closing, Mr. Chair, my delegation assures you of our support and cooperation. My delegation looks forward to participating constructively in the discussions in the forthcoming weeks. We will continue to be inspired and motivated by our shared goal to further enhance the organizational efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations even in the face of this human crisis.

I thank you. - END