

PRESS RELEASE

Philippine Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva

14-16 Allée David-Morse, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland • Telephone No. +41 22 716 1930 • <http://www.genevapm.dfa.gov.ph>
E-mail: geneva.pm@dfa.gov.ph • Facebook: Philippine Consulate General, Geneva URL: <https://www.facebook.com/genevapcg/>



PH HIGHLIGHTS INITIATIVES ON INNOVATION AND GENDER EQUALITY AT CSO-LED MEETING IN GENEVA



Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations Evan P. Garcia and Ms. Caroline Handschin, President of the NGO on the Committee of the Status of Women.

GENEVA - In line with the Philippines' gender advocacy and policy on constructive engagement with civil society, Permanent Representative Evan P. Garcia participated in an informal discussion on *"Innovation and technological change, and empowerment of all women and girls"*, held on 8 February 2022 in Geneva. This is the first of a series of meetings under the umbrella of *"Women and Men Working Together for Gender Equality"* organized by the NGO on the Committee of the Status of Women - Geneva.

Amb. Garcia highlighted Philippine initiatives to meaningfully close the gender gap in the digital sphere by promoting greater women and girls' participation in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. He noted that the Department of Information and Communications Technology pursues an innovation agenda with gender dimensions and has, in fact, recently launched the Digital Innovation for Women Advancement program.

"Communities must be given adequate resources to harness the transformative power of technology in order for them to craft homegrown solutions and responses to prevailing gender issues," Ambassador Garcia stressed.

Ambassador Garcia was accompanied by First Secretary Luningning Camoying Valdez who likewise shared the significant strides made by the Philippines in enhancing its legislative and policy frameworks covering the gender and technology nexus. These include the enactment of the Safe Spaces Act, Anti-Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children Act, and Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, which strengthen protection mechanisms for women and girls against all forms of harassment, abuse and violence including in cyberspace.

The meeting was attended by Permanent Representatives and officials from select diplomatic missions and UN Women, an expert from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and representatives from civil society. END