



# PHILIPPINES

## 57<sup>th</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### General Debate on Item 10. Technical Assistance and Capacity-Building

*Delivered by*

**Permanent Representative Carlos D. Sorreta**

*Speaking time: 1 min 30 seconds*

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

Technical assistance is a tool that duty-bearers can choose to support domestic initiatives as part of a larger, long-term process.

In 2021, the Philippines embarked on a joint programme with the United Nations covering six work streams, including improving accountability mechanisms and government-civil society engagement. We have concluded this program, having successfully achieved its main objectives.

We now take full ownership of our human rights agenda, while maintaining spaces for focused collaborative undertakings with bilateral partners and civil society.

We draw three main lessons from this engagement:

**First**, technical cooperation is effective when it is aligned with national priorities and when government agencies are given the driver's seat in the design and implementation of projects.

**Second**, capacity-building projects must be time-bound and not create relations of dependency with the UN. National ownership must be respected to ensure sustainability of efforts.

**And third**, transparency and the judicious use of scarce financial resources must be upheld. Funds should go more to concrete projects rather than to salaries and administrative costs. Technical cooperation should help transform people's lives. It should not be used as an excuse to entrench high-paying jobs or for political purposes. Thank you. **END**