



PHILIPPINES

57th REGULAR SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

General Debate on Item 2. Annual Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the OHCHR and the Secretary General
11 September 2024

Delivered by

First Secretary Luningning Camoying Valdez

Speaking time: 1 min 30 seconds

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

We thank the High Commissioner for the much-needed wake-up call. The global situation is indeed dire. Challenges abound while our multilateral institutions are at different stages of paralysis.

But despite its obvious limitations, multilateralism -- guided by human rights -- remains humanity's best option to finding just and equitable solutions to collective problems.

The Philippines recognizes the value of cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including the OHCHR. We seek help when necessary and welcome fair scrutiny as any democracy would. The Philippines has, for instance, worked with the OHCHR to establish its National Recommendations Tracking Database to improve the implementation of UPR and treaty bodies recommendations.

Regrettably, the polarization and perceived double standards that shroud this Council is discouraging States from more meaningful engagement with the OHCHR and other human rights mechanisms, for that matter. We must rebuild trust and confidence in the system. Open dialogue and truly consensual technical cooperation are good entry points.

We agree with the High Commissioner that the world is far too complex for absolutist approaches devoid of subtleties, of critical self-reflection, and of empathy with *"the Other"*. If our multilateral human rights institutions are to survive this onslaught of crises, we must work together acknowledging that there is no *"one-size fits all"* solutions to problems. And that, in providing help, we must empower rather not create relations of dependency. We must give domestic institutions space to do their work and mature in the process.

Thank you. **END**