

PRESS RELEASE

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

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“PH TO WORK WITH PARTNERS TO MAKE MULTILATERALISM WORK BETTER IF ELECTED TO UN SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCILS” – PH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE SORRETA TELLS COUNTERPARTS IN GENEVA AT YEAR-END DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION



Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva, delivers brief remarks at the End-of-Year Diplomatic Reception hosted by the Philippine Permanent Mission on 12 December 2023 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

GENEVA – Philippine Permanent Representative Carlos D. Sorreta affirmed that the Philippines will continue working with partners “to make multilateralism work better for everyone” at a year-end appreciation reception on the heels of the high-level commemorative event for the 75th anniversary on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on 12 December 2023, in Geneva Switzerland.

“Multilateralism – even under great pressure and with its limits – is alive and remains our best option. Multilateralism is at the heart of the UN Charter and we continue to keep our faith and commitment to the mechanism it created or grew out of its precepts”, Ambassador Sorreta stated. He added that it is for this reason that the Philippines is vying for a seat as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term 2027-2028 and as a member of the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the term 2028-2030. The Philippines was last elected to the UNSC in 2004 and has served five terms in the HRC since its establishment (first term in 2006, second term in 2007-2010, third term in 2011-2014, fourth term in 2016-2018, and fifth term in 2019-2021).

Ambassador Sorreta also conveyed the Philippine Government’s appreciation to ASEAN, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, Non-Aligned Movement, and G-77 whom the Philippines have worked with to advance common aspirations in various UN fora.



Amb. Carlos Sorreta with (L-R) H.E. Mrs. Dato’ Nadzirah Binti OSMAN of Malaysia, H.E. Mrs. Dk Mazlizah PG HJ MAHALEE of Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Mrs. Ei Ei TIN of Myanmar, H.E. Mrs. LE Thi Tuyet Mai of Vietnam, and H.E. Mrs. Himalee Subhashini ARUNATILAKA of Sri Lanka.

“These days there seems to be very little to be thankful for. But we are thankful for the hope that remains in all of our hearts for a better world, we deeply appreciate the cooperation we continue to show each other, and we are thankful that we always meet as friends and no matter how hard we disagree with each other, we do not part as enemies”, Ambassador Sorreta added.

More than eighty guests from the Permanent Missions of United Nations Member States in Geneva attended the reception, including ASEAN Permanent Representatives, the US Permanent Representative to the UN and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, and some delegations from their respective capitals attending the High-Level Event on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. Also in attendance were Czech Ambassador Vaclav Balek, President of the 2023 Human

Rights Council; Department of Justice Undersecretary Raul Vasquez, head of the Philippine delegation the Global Refugee Forum; Chief State Counsel Dennis Arvin Chan; and State Counsel Paulito de Jesus.



Host to many specialized UN bodies, including the Human Rights Council, Office the High Commissioner for Human Rights and United and UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Geneva is a center for multilateral action in various issue-areas with near universal representation of UN member states. This year the UN in Geneva was the fulcrum of the yearlong commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which culminated in a high-level event held on 11-12 December 2023. The Global Refugee Forum, organized by UNHCR, opened on 13 December and will close on 15 December 2023. **END**