

STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations  
Agenda Item 84: THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS  
Sixth Committee  
79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
17 October 2024, Trusteeship Council  
UN Headquarters New York

Thank you, M r. Chair.

The Philippines recognizes the importance of adherence to rule of law at the national and international levels. We reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

We align with the statement of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations delivered by Singapore and associate ourselves with statements delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Austria on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law.

We thank the Secretary General for the Report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities (A/79/117 D Q G Q R W H W K H U H I H U H Q F H V W R W K promote the rule of law D W W K H Q D W L R Q D O O H Y H O : H H [ S U H V V D S S U H F focus and enumeration of activities on rule of law at the international level and would like to see this practice continued in subsequent reports.

Mr. Chair ,

On rule of law and the sub-topic on the

The Report rightly spotlights capacity-building and technical assistance activities as the μ F R U Q H p r e v i o u s @ s strengthen the role of international law in international relations, and indeed, of full, equal and equitable participation at all levels in the international legal system.

We acknowledge the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (UN POA) and commend the Codification Division of the

international tribunals, particularly the ICJ

The UNCLOS and the binding 2016 Arbitral Award on the South China Sea constitute the foundation of our policy on the South China Sea. The Award declares that claims exceeding entitlements beyond the limits of UNCLOS have no legal basis.

The Philippines remains committed to diplomacy and other peaceful means to settle disputes, despite irresponsible and dangerous actions against our legitimate activities within our maritime zones, including our Exclusive Economic Zone. We will continue to abide by the UN Charter and the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Resolution of Disputes in asserting our sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the South China Sea.

To conclude, allow us to reiterate our solemn commitment to an international order based on the rule of law and international law and to recall what Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo stated at the High-Level Debate of the General Assembly this year.

*Multilateralism is underwritten by a rules-based order governed by international law and informed by the principles of equity and justice, that safeguards the rights of all states. If multilateralism is to thrive, all states must adhere to the rule of law. Times of flux and crises offer opportunities for reinforcing a rules-based international order.*

These are opportunities we must not fail to seize ±