

check against delivery

PHILIPPINES

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
STATEMENT
HON. JOSE MARLOWE S. PEDREGOSA
Executive Director, Dangerous Drugs Board**

**Special segment on the preparations for the Special session of the General
Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016
58th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
9-17 March 2015, Vienna, Austria**

Mr. Chairperson,

Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, Ladies and
Gentlemen:

The Philippine Delegation warmly congratulates you on your Chairmanship of this 58th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the other members of the Bureau. We assure you and the other officials of the Bureau of our full support and cooperation.

We would also like to congratulate the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements of this session.

The Philippines associates itself with the statements made by the Group of 77 and China and the Asian Group.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Philippines notes the progress that has been achieved since the adoption in 2009 of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and looks forward to successfully achieving our targets in 2019. We welcome the developments that we have gained, and acknowledge that there are still a number of gaps in certain target areas, which we must address by sustaining and strengthening our efforts.

Generally, the Philippine government's national drug strategy involving a five-pillar approach of drug supply reduction, drug demand reduction, alternative development, civic awareness, and regional and international cooperation has proven to be effective in addressing the drug menace. However, there is still considerable room for improvement and we hope that our dialogue with you will help us gain more insights and contribute to the development of more holistic and integrated strategies.

As the national drug focal agency, the Dangerous Drugs Board supervises, coordinates and mobilizes various government and non-government agencies on the anti-drug advocacy.

In 2014, the supply reduction efforts led by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency resulted in the seizure of Php 6.35 billion (Approximately 143 Million USD) worth of dangerous drugs and controlled precursor and essential chemicals (CPECs). This included 718.47 kilos of methamphetamine, 3599 pieces of ecstasy and 69.84 kilos of cocaine. The highest volume of ecstasy seized in a single operation since 2002 was also recorded in this year. This also led to the arrest of drug personalities and syndicates, the dismantling of clandestine laboratories and the eradication of cannabis plantation sites, surpassing our accomplishments last year.

The drug problem has no borders. In this regard, the Philippines has worked to strengthen airport interdiction operations and the detection of modus operandi and drug trafficking routes to ensure a holistic approach in our supply reduction efforts

The law enforcement sector of the Philippines have successfully destroyed marijuana plants and seedlings worth Php 397.04 million (approximately 3.9 Million USD) after conducting operations in various parts of the country. These operations have surpassed last year's accomplishments by 12.20%.

On drug demand reduction, the Philippines intensified its programs on Prevention Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation and Research through the grass-roots level by involving communities and conducting capacity building programs, including the dissemination of the UNODC International Prevention Standards on Substance Use.

Our efforts to continually strive to improve our national strategy, programs and projects to address new and emerging challenges. The Dangerous Drugs Board reviewed previously established strategies, programs and projects, resulting in the development of a new National Anti-Drug Plan of Action (NADPA) which will be implemented from 2015 to 2020.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Philippines recognizes the vital role that surveys and monitoring and evaluation play in the formulation of anti-drug strategies. We wish to mention several new trends and developments in the Philippine Drug Situation, which in turn will shape our national strategies.

First is the use of bitcoin in drug transactions, with the buyers purchasing illegal substances through the Deep Web. The first incidence of Aziridine seizure was recorded in the Philippines last year, with 655.56 kilos seized from a dismantled methamphetamine warehouse. Seizures of cocktail drugs like “Fly High” were also recorded.

Other trends include the shipment of illegal drugs through mail and parcel services, as well as the utilization of minors to transport illicit drugs. In 2014, the record of arrested minors is 20.94% higher than 2013’s data, with the youngest arrested drug personality since 2003.

Mr. Chairperson,

Our delegation wishes to emphasize, strengthen and reinforce its presence in the domestic drug situation, particularly in big-volume seizures made by authorities. We have forged strong cooperative links, partnerships and joint investigations with partner agencies that have led to high-impact operations and arrests, as well as seizures of big quantities of dangerous drugs. In 2014, ten (10%) of our total 13,786 arrests were made up of high value arrests.

By targeting the sources of illegal drugs, our local law enforcement and drug enforcement agencies have successfully conducted high-impact operations in our communities which include the eradication of marijuana plantations, dismantling of drug dens and laboratories, raiding warehouses, interdiction and controlled delivery operations, and seizing high volumes of illegal drugs and controlled precursor and essential chemical (CPECs).

In dismantling two methamphetamine warehouses, 461.69 kilos of methamphetamine, the highest volume for the year, 236.76 kilos of ephedrine and 655.56 kilograms of 1,2-dimethyl-3-phenyl-aziridine worth Php 2.4 Billion (approx. 54 million USD) were seized.

Since the creation and establishment of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in 2002, it has been closely watching the participation of foreign nationals in the local drug scene. In 2014 alone, as many as 67 foreign drug personalities were arrested. On the domestic front, PDEA and other law enforcement agencies have managed to neutralize five local drug groups and arrest 58 leaders and members nationwide.

Mr. Chairperson,

International cooperation has been the principal driving force behind global progress. The fight against drugs is not a fight waged by each Member State alone. All the accomplishments that the Philippines has managed to make is partly due to the help of international drugs and narcotics control boards and agencies, and the strong resolve brought about by international and regional cooperation.

The Philippines has worked on forging and maintaining partnerships with both local and foreign agencies upholding the same anti-drug advocacy. In April of last year, the Philippines hosted the 2014 International Drug Enforcement Conference-Far East Regional Working Group (IDEC-FERWG) with the US DEA. It was followed by the 4th ASEAN Airport

Interdiction Task Force Meeting hosted by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in May, as well as the hosting of the 35th ASEAN Senior Official on Drug Matters Meeting in July.

Mr. Chair, the Philippine Delegation lauds all Member States for their efforts in countering the world drug problem. We are confident that the goals we have set in 2009 are within reach as long as we continue to present a united front in this fight.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.