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**Philippine Statement to be delivered at the
Special Segment for the Special Session of the General
Assembly on the
World Drug Problem
59th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 14 March
2016**

Mr. Chairperson,

Excellencies,

Heads of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My delegations joins others in congratulating Ambassador Vladimir Galuska on your election as Chairman of this session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The Philippines welcomes the significant progress achieved since the adoption in 2009 of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, but much remains to be done. This Special Segment which will feed into

the upcoming United Nations General Assembly Special Session in New York must result in concrete progress towards addressing the world drug problem which in turn impacts the future of our world.

The Philippines affirms the important role of the Commission as the principal policy making organ of the United Nation on matters of international drug control and as the governing body of the UNODC's drug program.

As such, all efforts and initiatives of our government to curb the drug problem are in accordance with the three international drug control conventions.

We stand firm on this commitment and remain resolute against calls to legalize controlled drugs.

The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of the Philippines reflects the value our government ascribes to a balanced and integrated approach against illegal drugs. While providing an extensive legal framework for drug enforcement and penalties for violations, it also

adopts a compassionate approach to victims of drug abuse by encouraging voluntary treatment and rehabilitation, and promoting their integration into society.

Mr. Chairperson,

I wish to put on record that the Philippines does not favor capital punishment for drug offenses or for any other crime.

Our National Anti-Drug Plan of Action for 2015-2020 has been developed to sustain the progress achieved in our national efforts to address the evolving challenges in the fight against drugs. Indeed, the Office of the President issued an order directing all government agencies and offices to implement the strategies outlined in the Plan of Action.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Plan of Action rests on five pillars: drug supply reduction, drug demand reduction, civic awareness and responses, alternative

development, and regional and international cooperation.

For drug demand reduction, the Dangerous Drugs Board has designed a wide range of educational programs and services designed to address specific needs of various sectors such as school-aged children, out-of-school youth, street children, law enforcers, parents and teachers. Key concepts in the UNODC International Standards on the Prevention of Substance Use are incorporated in these programs.

Through targeted programs emphasizing civic awareness and capacity-building, we underscore our belief in the value of participatory and empowering approaches towards drug abuse prevention as well as the significant role that communities play in ensuring their effectiveness.

Drug supply reduction strategies aim to take away drugs for the purpose of abuse from the public. We are pleased to report that progress has been made through substantial seizures of controlled substances and essential chemical ingredients, neutralization of drug

syndicates, dismantling of clandestine methamphetamine hydrochloride laboratories and warehouses for diverted chemicals.

Our alternative development programs reach out to identified marijuana cultivation sites through the crafting of project interventions and through encouraging cultivators to engage in alternative production systems such as programs in sericulture, cattle-raising and abaca farming. We call on Member States to support trade in these products to sustain the system.

Mr. Chairperson,

As the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility, we wish to highlight the important role of strategic bilateral, regional and international partnerships and cross-border cooperation, in areas such as technical assistance, capacity building, and information sharing.

The drug problem is a concern that transcends borders, needing a comprehensive and collaborative approach. The Philippine

Delegation wishes to laud and acknowledge the efforts of all Member States in countering the drug problem. In this objective, we are united and therefore, it is imperative that the next few days engender, not futile discussions, but consensual and concrete action towards our shared and common objectives.

Thank you.