

Country Statement
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Distinguished Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Countries around the world face different challenges brought about by the global pandemic which affected everyone. What is alarming is that despite the threat of Covid 19, the problem on illegal drugs persists. Thus, the Philippine government has been doing its best to continuously promote programs and advocacies by abruptly adapting to the different changes, in any possible way in order to address the drug issues.

As we have seen in the past, the Philippine government has been guided by the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy which have been institutionalized by virtue of an Executive Order issued by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, where all agencies of the government have been directed to implement initiatives on drug prevention and control that are aimed towards cutting the supply of and demand for dangerous drugs and achieving drug-free communities.

This echoes the United Nations' fundamental principle of addressing the drug problem in a comprehensive, integrated, and balanced way as clearly expressed in the 1998 and 2009 Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly. Concretely, in the Philippines, the convergence of the drug supply and drug demand reduction efforts is articulated in various policies and programs that are in place.

Drug supply reduction targets the elimination or significant reduction of cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, trafficking and distribution of illicit drugs. On the ground, its implementation is based on the legal framework of Republic Act No. 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 which clearly outlines drug-related offenses and the corresponding penalties. This major law is supplemented by Board Regulations, including but not limited to the Barangay Drug Clearing Program and Community Involvement in Reforming Drug Offenders into Self-sufficient and Law-abiding Members of Society. Supply reduction measures utilize law enforcement, judicial action, and alternative development programs to alleviate poverty and promote public well-being.

Drug demand reduction is equally crucial as it complements all anti-illegal drug efforts. Several initiatives that support this include the promotion of drug-free workplace policies on government offices, establishment of uniform prevention education in the Sangguniang Kabataan or Youth Council in the local government units, development of protocols in handling children allegedly involved in dangerous drugs, consolidation of revised rules governing access to treatment and rehabilitation services, adoption of aftercare and reintegration models and advancement of community-based rehabilitation programs and related interventions in controlled facilities.

The full and effective implementation of laws and policies remains at the core of the Philippine Government's success as it sets the direction of the programs to be implemented onwards. In general, this mutually reinforcing approach to supply and demand reduction puts a premium on achieving proportionality of effort, resources, and investments to achieve drug-free communities.

The Philippines remains committed to doing its share in the global fight against the drug menace as it continues to believe that this is a common and shared responsibility.

Thank you and Mabuhay.