



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD

**Country Statement
Secretary Catalino S. Cuy
Chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board
Republic of the Philippines**

To be delivered during the
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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Distinguished Heads of Delegations, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Philippines firmly believes that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 are the cornerstone of international drug control. It is our strong belief that a comprehensive and balanced approach is vital in addressing the drug problem. With this vision in mind, we have developed the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drug Strategy which has two key components: drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction, working towards the goal of a drug resistant Philippines. The strategy provides an extensive framework for law enforcement, accountability and penalties for violations. Most importantly, it adopts a compassionate approach to aid victims of drug abuse by providing voluntary treatment, rehabilitation, aftercare and reintegration under an overarching framework which emphasizes respect for human rights. The Philippines puts individuals at the centers of its anti-drug abuse campaign. It also believes in the importance of drug abuse prevention to protect the vulnerabilities of the youth from the drug menace. With the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention as a model, the Philippines formulated educational programs and services suited to the various

developmental stages, settings and specific needs of the members of our communities. Our flagship program “Peer Group Against Drugs” which targets the youth continues to receive wide acceptance since its inception. Recognizing that communities are at the center of all our anti-drug efforts, we are employing a community-based approach to treatment and rehabilitation through our local government units.

Acknowledging the important contribution of civil society as a partner in the fight against illicit drugs, our government agencies work with the academe, religious sector, the youth, in these mentioned programs. The drug problem is one which knows no borders. Bilateral, regional and international cooperation through exchange of information, enhanced collaboration and technical assistance trainings, among other measures, is of critical importance. The desire for a drug-resistant society is an aspiration we share with other countries in our region.

As the Philippines prepares to Chair the ASEAN Senior Officials on Drug Matters next year, we are proud to report that it will continue to rally the Asean Member-States in implementing the ASEAN Work Plan on Securing Communities Against Illicit Drugs until the year 2025. We will collectively enhance and improve the policy document with the aim to cooperate and support one another in addressing the global drug problem. We believe that the world drug problem is a common and shared responsibility. However, it is vital to note that each State has the sovereign right to determine the best approach to address its drug problem, taking into careful consideration its historical, political, economic, social and cultural contexts and social norms. A one size-fits all approach is proven to be ineffective based on our domestic experience and will remain to be so in the future.

The Philippine Government understands the importance of waging its campaign against drugs in a manner that does not undermine its legitimacy and integrity of the campaign itself. As a matter of practice, Therefore, full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, as well as the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, is a precept which must be observed by all. We will not stand idly by while the scourge of illegal drugs affects our people, especially the young. Time and again, our supreme goal is to ensure that all Filipinos live in communities that are safe and secure from the harmful effects of illegal drugs. As we perform our sacrosanct duty under our

Constitution to protect our people, we spare no effort in implementing an anti-illegal drug campaign that strictly adheres to international human rights law and principles, in line with our Government's pursuit of peace, security and development.

Thank you very much.