



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the
United Nations and other International Organizations**

National Statement of the Republic of the Philippines

14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
07-12 March 2021
Kyoto, Japan

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Philippine Government extends its appreciation to the Chair, the UNODC, and the Government of Japan for the exceptional work in organizing the 14th Crime Congress amidst the multidimensional challenges wrought by the pandemic. The Philippines also congratulates Ambassador Takeshi Hikihara for his decisive role in leading the constructive negotiations on the Kyoto Declaration. It is in this constructive spirit that the Philippines expresses its support for the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law and commits to intensify crime prevention efforts within the context of social and economic development in solidarity with the international community.

Mr. Chair,

Much has changed since Doha 2015. Hate crimes, new forms of online criminal activity, and the evolution of new methods involving **the exploitation** of the internet, drone technology and 3D printing are phenomena that characterize modern criminal activity. The emergence of new technologies has enabled criminals to operate in ways that our current law enforcement systems are inadequately equipped to address.

Still, these added strains have not prevented governments and other stakeholders worldwide from advancing the cause of crime prevention, criminal justice, and the rule of law.

Electing a new President who ran under the banner of mounting a decisive response to the scourge of criminality and illegal drugs in 2016, the Philippines embarked on an anti-illegal drug campaign that yielded concrete achievements.



Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and other International Organizations

188,603 anti-illegal drug operations conducted from July 2016 to December 2020 resulted in the seizure of dangerous drugs, controlled precursors and essential chemicals, and non-drug evidence amounting to US\$1.18 billion. It also resulted in the arrest of 273,014 persons suspected to be involved in the illegal drug trade, a huge percentage of which have been sent for rehabilitation and treatment.

Criminality in the Philippines also continues to decrease, with a consistent annual decline in volume by 11 percent for the period 2017 to 2019. From July 2017 to June 2018, for instance, cases dropped by more than 50,000, greatly reducing the country's crime statistics. Due to the implementation of COVID-19-related restrictions starting March 2020, the Philippines experienced a further reduction of crime incidence by 39.59 percent.

These came at huge cost, made more severe by the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic. Like the rest of the world, the Philippine economy experienced setbacks, with household spending decreasing by US\$16.38 billion, and an economic contraction of 9.5 percent.

Despite the pandemic, examples of best practices emerged. The Philippines has been successful in rendering justice online, spearheading the electronic promulgation of cases and other adaptive mechanisms using online technology. Such practices could transcend the limitations and restrictions imposed by the current pandemic.

Mr. Chair,

Such achievements in our crime statistics, as well as the resilience and steady growth of our economy amid the global economic crash, attests to the palpable success of the current Administration's centerpiece Zero to 10-point Socioeconomic Agenda. With the maintenance of peace and order as the "zero" or base, 10 priority poverty reduction strategies stand, which all fully integrate with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As of mid-2020, seven of these 10 strategies have already been achieved, while the attainment of the remaining priorities are on track. More recently, the Philippines updated its economic blueprint, the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, recalibrating its approach to respond to challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and other International Organizations

These indicators demonstrate the success of the Philippine Government's efforts in combating illegal drugs and criminal elements as necessary conditions to accelerate development. These achievements are also made possible with the strong partnership and collaboration with international law enforcement organizations, including the UNODC, and the strong and steady support that Filipinos give to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte; of our people's unequivocal trust in the Philippine Government's efforts to crackdown against crime in all its manifestations.

Mr Chair,

The Philippines will continue to uphold peace and order, the primacy of the rule of law, justice, and its unwavering protection of human rights, with full respect to national and international laws. Guided by the tenets of sovereignty and self-determination, the Philippines is committed to support all efforts at cooperation in combating crime in the local, regional and international levels.

We also call upon our partners, and other States to recognize the Philippine Government's efforts to accomplish and continue to fulfill its mandate of protecting the Filipino people's dignity and way of life.

Mr. Chair,

Let me once again express our special appreciation to you for this opportunity you have extended for us to contribute in this conference, along with the efforts of UNODC and Interpol, among others, in pursuing a crime- and drug-free world.

Thank you.