

DRAFT NATIONAL STATEMENT
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Republic of the Philippines

*10th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the
United Nations Convention Against Corruption
Atlanta, United States of America (11-15 December 2023)*

Mr. Chair,

The Philippine delegation would like to express our highest commendation to you, the officers of the Bureau, the Secretariat, and the United States for graciously hosting the 10th Session of the CoSP.

Our country's full national statement was submitted to the Secretariat and we request that the same be reflected in the report of the Conference.

Mr. Chair,

Corruption erodes public trust and good governance. It likewise hampers economic growth. The Philippines recognizes the significance of a coordinated and whole-of-government approach in our fight against corruption.

Last month, an UNCAC Review Follow-up and Implementation Workshop spearheaded by the Office of the President and co-organized by the UNODC was held. Through the said Workshop, we were able to determine the milestones that our government was able to accomplish in the last few years.

In the aspect of **public accountability**, the Philippines pursued strategies aimed at enhancing the public feedback loop through our national governance assessments such as the National Evaluation Framework, and the Seal of Good Local Governance for local government units.

Furthermore, recognizing the **right of the people to information**, the Office of the President issued Executive Order No. 02 in 2016, operationalizing full public disclosure and transparency in the public service.

Accordingly, the Freedom of Information Program Management Office was created.

In the area of **fiscal transparency**, through the commitment of the Department of Budget and Management, the Philippines remained a leader in the Southeast Asia region in terms of fiscal openness and public participation in the budget process as seen in the Open Budget Survey 2021.

The Philippines is ranked 19 out of 120 countries included in the survey.

Moreover, the International Budget Partnership (IBP) recognized the Philippines in 2021 to be one of the four and the only Asian country to have achieved an adequate level of accountability in its early COVID-19 fiscal policies.

In the aspect of **Citizen Participation**, the Citizen Participatory Audit of the Commission on Audit became a globally recognized program being hailed as an OGP Bright Spot Awardee in 2013 and 2015 for its ambitious initiative of opening up the state's auditing process to the citizens.

At present, the Citizen Participatory Audit is institutionalized and an office was created to handle this program.

The Philippines likewise recognizes the importance of addressing **corruption in the private sector**. Thus, the 2019 Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines was enacted, penalizing bribery in the private sector.

In order to reduce and ultimately eliminate opportunities for **corruption in the public service**, the Civil Service Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman have introduced mandatory and comprehensive anti-corruption training for all civil servants.

The Philippines also emphasizes our firm commitment to further strengthening our laws and policies against **money laundering**. Our Anti-Money Laundering Act, was amended in the year 2021 which introduced improvements including the expansion of the list of covered persons, among others.

Considering that the fight against corruption necessitates a whole-of-government approach, the Supreme Court of the Philippines likewise campaigns for ethical responsibility among judicial officers, court officials, employees, and the members of the Bar. The Supreme Court recently promulgated the revised Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability (CPRA), which emphasizes that lawyers should not engage in graft and corrupt practices. Mr. Chair,

Corruption undermines the rule of law and institutions crucial for maintaining peace.

As a nation deeply committed to upholding international peace, the Philippines requests support for our candidature to the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for the term 2027-2028.

In closing, we reaffirm Philippine compliance with UNCAC and recognize the importance of international cooperation in the fight against corruption.

Thank you.