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# PHILIPPINES

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## STATEMENT

by

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Deputy Permanent Representative  
Philippine Mission to the United Nations

On

Agenda Item 82

**Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the United Nations**

before the

**Sixth Committee  
67<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
United Nations General Assembly**

United Nations, New York  
11 October 2012

## STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

### *Item 82 – Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization*

Thursday, 11 October 2012 (3:00 PM session)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Before anything else, the Philippines aligns itself with, and thanks, the Islamic Republic of Iran for its statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

With great pleasure, my delegation reiterates support for the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (document A/67/33).

Through you, we wish to thank our friend, Ambassador Garen Nazarian of Armenia, for his leadership of this Committee. We also thank our colleagues from Vietnam, Egypt, Mexico and Sweden, for helping Ambassador Nazarian successfully steer through the Committee's meetings last February and March.

Since the Committee was created by the General Assembly on 15 December 1975 through Resolution 3499, it has assisted Member States desiring to make our Organization function more effectively, in order to better achieve its purposes.

The scope of the Committee's work ranges from issues regarding the UN Charter, to strengthening the UN's role in maintaining and consolidating international peace and security, and to promoting international law. The excellent working papers submitted by Libya, Venezuela, Belarus and the Russian Federation, and Cuba on these important topics, not only enrich work of the Committee. They attest to the Committee's strengths and value.

Mr. Chairman, under resolution 66/101 of 09 December 2011, the current mandate of the Committee includes the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between states.

In this context, the Committee discussed the Philippine proposal to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption on 15 November 1982 of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes (General Assembly resolution 37/10). Advanced by Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Romania, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and the Philippines, the Manila Declaration was sponsored by forty-one (41) Member States in 1982, spanning all regional groups. It was eventually adopted by the General Assembly, by consensus.

In cooperation with the American Branch of the International Law Association together with the International Law Students Association, the Philippine Mission is organizing a panel to discuss the continuing relevance of the Manila Declaration. This will be held at the Fordham University School of Law, in the Upper West Side, on Friday, 26 October 2012, at 3:00 PM. We hope that you could join us.

Mr. Chairman, may I briefly emphasize four points.

First, the Philippines has fully subscribed to the proper procedure in the presentation and negotiation of the draft resolution, in the spirit of transparency and genuine cooperation.

Second, the draft resolution, in itself, is a product of extensive, open and transparent consultations. We are not presenting anything new.

Third, the draft resolution reflects consensus, and we thank delegations for their constructive approach during the deliberations that led to that consensus.

Fourth, the draft resolution was adopted by the Working Group of the Whole of the Special Committee. Therefore, it is no longer just the Philippines' proposal. It is the proposal of the Special Committee.

The Manila Declaration is one of the most significant achievements of the Special Committee. As a matter of fact, the Manila Declaration is the first important instrument of the work of the Special Committee.

We hope that the Sixth Committee will find it fitting to commemorate this achievement.

We hope that the Sixth Committee will endorse the recommendation of the Special Committee for the plenary of the General Assembly to adopt the commemorative draft resolution found in paragraph 57, or page 10, of the report.

In formally tabling the draft resolution on behalf of the Bureau, the Philippines is grateful for the support extended by delegations to the crafting of the draft resolution. This is the support that reflects the consensus achieved not only during the last session of the Special Committee, but more importantly, the consensus that allowed for the historic adoption of the Manila Declaration thirty years ago. This is the basis of our decision to remember and to renew our pledge to commit to the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Thank you very much.