



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations
Agenda Item 83: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations
and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
7 November 2022, Trusteeship Council Chamber
UN Headquarters, New York

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, we align ourselves with the statement delivered by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Philippines welcomes the Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (A/77/33). We note with appreciation progress made in the preparation of studies for the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and in updating the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, and particularly commends the completion of the twenty-third Supplement to the Repertoire.

Mr. Chairman, as a founding member of the United Nations, we hold the Special Committee in high regard. Since 1975, the Special Committee has provided Member States a platform to make the Organization function more effectively, in order to better achieve its purposes.

Mr. Chairman, the *1982 Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes* marks forty (40) years this year.

The *Manila Declaration* is the first instrument and one of the most important, concrete work of the Special Committee. It is the first comprehensive plan and consolidation of the legal framework for the peaceful settlement of international disputes, building upon and promoting general international law, the UN Charter, and other key instruments like resolution 2625 of 1970 or the Friendly Relations Declaration.

The Philippines, following last year's resolution that encourages the United Nations and Member States to commemorate its anniversary, marked this milestone of the Manila Declaration with an exhibit here at the United Nations premises entitled "When the World declared Peace."

The exhibit was a visual commemoration of the background, negotiating history, and key provisions of the Manila Declaration. Through the artwork, the photographs retrieved from the UN archives, and illustrations, the exhibit was an invitation to reflect on a landmark legal framework that bolsters the world's pursuit of lasting, sustainable peace.

The peaceful settlement of disputes remains the central concern of the United Nations and of its member states, equal to the imperative obligation of each one to its self-preservation and defense. Efforts to strengthen the process of the peaceful settlement of disputes must continue tirelessly, the Manila Declaration states. So is adapting the Declaration to realities that have since emerged.

As what then Secretary for Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo said: "This Declaration marks an important step forward for the United Nations and the international community generally in our efforts to enhance the capacity of the United Nations for peace-making."

His words remain relevant. On this 40th year, we renew our commitment to the Manila Declaration as a reaffirmation to the United Nations Charter.

Mr. Chair,

The UN Charter and this organization was borne out of the necessity to maintain international peace and security. Let us, as it says, "practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors."

Thank you. END.