



# PHILIPPINES

**STATEMENT BY ARIEL RODELAS PEÑARANDA**  
**Ambassador and Representative**

**AGENDA 112**  
**MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**  
**Sixth Committee, 77<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly**

4 October 2022  
Trusteeship Council Chamber

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

The Philippines is very pleased that you are leading the Sixth Committee. We congratulate you and the Bureau, and express our full support.

We align with the statements of Iran on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and of Cambodia on behalf of ASEAN.

We also wish to thank the Secretary-General for the report on Agenda 112.

Terrorism is an incessant threat to the international security and to economic development. This big, heavy cloud of threat knows no border, nationality, or creed. Addressing it will require more than the words that echo in this chamber.

The Philippines denounces terrorism in all forms, places, and against all victims, including acts of aggression and violence under the guise of war. Blatant and serious violations of international law and the United Nations Charter must be met with severe consequences.

Terrorism is pervasive and evolving, and while we may sometimes struggle, we are undeterred. We stay vigilant and determined as we continue to be guided by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that we adopted in 2006. For the Philippines, this means enhancing cooperation at all levels, refining and updating our legal framework, and sustaining the continued engagement of all stakeholders.

In recent years, we have amped our cooperation with the UN and partner states on capacity-building programs and activities targeted at equipping our law enforcement and security personnel and the modernization of facilities and digital machineries. In particular, the Philippines lauds the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and other UN entities in bringing

experts and introducing new programs and processes. We also congratulate the UNOCT for organizing the first ever UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, wherein our National Security Adviser and head of our Anti-Terrorism Council, Secretary Clarita R. Carlos shared these programs of cooperation. In recognition of friendly relations and cooperation among States for the maintenance of international peace and security, our law enforcement agencies have been implementing agreements on terrorism and/or transnational crimes we forged with neighboring Asian countries and UN Member states.

We have likewise updated our terrorism laws, foremost of which is the enactment of Anti-Terrorism and Anti-Money Laundering laws, both passed in 2020. A legal framework that effectively curtails terrorism must be updated, responsive and comprehensive.

The Philippines is the first country in Southeast Asia to adopt a National Action Plan on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (NAP-P/CVE). Several civil society organizations and non-government organizations took part in several workshops along with various government agencies, academics, and representatives from the youth and women sectors.

In countering terrorism, we need to nip the menace in the bud and to holistically address its root causes through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach as we work with intergovernmental organizations, civil society, communities, victims and their families.

We also need to look at the bigger picture, address our differences, and find our common denomination. To this end, the Philippines reiterates its call for the conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention for Combating International Terrorism. We expect that work on it can continue.

As highlighted by our H.E. President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr., at the General Assembly Debate, the centerpiece of the Philippines' counter-terrorism efforts is our success in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao in Southern Philippines. Terrorist activity has declined and terrorist capabilities are diminishing as evidenced by our improved ranking at number 16 in the Global Terrorism Index.

In the same Debate, President Marcos cited the reason for the success—solidarity. The Philippines believed that solidarity is much needed. In closing, I wish to quote our President's words: "[W]e need to reaffirm the wisdom of the founders of our United Nations...transcending our differences and committing to ending war, upholding justice, respecting human rights, and maintaining international peace and security."

Thank you.