



# PHILIPPINES

## STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations  
Agenda Item 84: THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS  
Sixth Committee  
79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
17 October 2024, Trusteeship Council  
UN Headquarters New York

**Thank you, Mr. Chair.**

The Philippines recognizes the importance of adherence to rule of law at the national and international levels. We reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which are indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

We align with the statement of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations delivered by Singapore and associate ourselves with statements delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Austria on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law.

We thank the Secretary General for the Report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities (A/79/117) and note the references to the Philippines' efforts to promote the rule of law at the national level. We express appreciation for the Report's additional focus and enumeration of activities on rule of law at the international level and would like to see this practice continued in subsequent reports.

**Mr. Chair,**

On rule of law and the sub-topic on the **“The full, equal and equitable participation at all levels in the international legal system”**, we wish to share the following views:

The Report rightly spotlights capacity-building and technical assistance activities as the ‘cornerstone’ of efforts to strengthen the role of international law in international relations, and indeed, of full, equal and equitable participation at all levels in the international legal system.

We acknowledge the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law (UN POA) and commend the Codification Division of the UN Office of Legal Affairs for their role in contributing to better knowledge of international law “as a means for strengthening international peace and security.”

At the recent meeting of the Advisory Committee, which we are honored to be part of, we said that given the rising demand for the courses delivered under the UN POA, we would welcome exploration of further ways to enhance access of Member States to the trainings. We also place high importance in the Audio-Visual Library under the UN POA and note its immense value for students of international law. Innovative ways to enhance user experience of the AVL, including through new technologies, would further improve access.

We also recognize the important work of the Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS) in spearheading and implementing capacity-building projects, technical assistance, and outreach activities in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea, especially to developing states. We appreciate DOALOS’ support in our own national efforts to enhance understanding on the BBNJ Agreement.

The Report also correctly identifies the ‘pivotal role’ of trust funds also play a pivotal role in mitigating financial obstacles and facilitating access to and participation in the international legal system. We support enhanced international cooperation in this regard, noting the value of trust funds in increasing participation of developing states, not only in taking part in law-making processes through treaty negotiations, such as in the BBNJ, but also in accessing international tribunals, such as the ITLOS and the ICJ.

In this regard, the Philippines notes efforts of international tribunals to facilitate access of Member States to international justice, particularly in relation to advisory proceedings, which have seen a surge in state participation. The volume and variety of cases brought before

international tribunals, particularly the ICJ, signify the global trust and confidence in their role in peaceful dispute resolution. Member States must invest fully in these institutions, especially in enhancing states capacities to access them.

We also welcome the adoption in principle of the Statute of the Advisory Centre on International Investment Dispute Resolution. We support the establishment of the Advisory Centre which will help protect and promote the interests of developing states, with potential to contribute to their full, equal and equitable participation at all levels in the international legal system.

**Mr. Chair,**

On rule of law at the international level, the Philippines works with all nations to promote the rule of law – advocating the peaceful settlement of disputes, promoting the role of international tribunals and legal bodies to foster greater solidarity around values that underpin the UN. Recalling OP9 of resolution 78/112 as well as resolution 77/322 of 1 August 2023, including its invitation to Member States to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Permanent Court of Arbitration through appropriate activities funded through voluntary contributions, we are pleased to work together with other states to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA).

On 22 October, during the International Law Week, together with the core group of states and other partner states, we are pleased to co-sponsor a lunch side event spotlighting the PCA entitled “Old Conventions, New Horizons”, as well as a reception in the evening to mark the 125<sup>th</sup> year of PCA. We hope that you will all honor us with your presence in these commemorative activities.

**Mr. Chair,**

As an archipelagic state, we adhere to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as the legal framework governing all activities in the ocean.

The UNCLOS and the binding 2016 Arbitral Award on the South China Sea constitute the foundation of our policy on the South China Sea. The Award declares that claims exceeding entitlements beyond the limits of UNCLOS have no legal basis.

The Philippines remains committed to diplomacy and other peaceful means to settle disputes, despite irresponsible and dangerous actions against our legitimate activities within our maritime zones, including our Exclusive Economic Zone. We will continue to abide by the UN Charter and the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Resolution of Disputes in asserting our sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the South China Sea.

To conclude, allow us to reiterate our solemn commitment to an international order based on the rule of law and international law and to recall what Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo stated at the High-Level Debate of the General Assembly this year.

*Multilateralism is underwritten by a rules-based order governed by international law and informed by the principles of equity and justice, that safeguards the rights of all states. If multilateralism is to thrive, all states must adhere to the rule of law. Times of flux and crises offer opportunities for reinforcing a rules-based international order.*

These are opportunities we must not fail to seize – at all times, to persist and uphold the rule of law, which lies at the heart of our international system. Thank you, Mr. Chair. (END)