



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
(3 minutes maximum)

by

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General Discussion on the theme
***“Harmonizing national policies and strategies with the CRPD:
achievements and challenges”***

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Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
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Mr. President,

The Philippines congratulates you and the members of the Bureau on your election. We are confident that you will steer this conference to a successful outcome and we assure you of our full support.

The Philippines remains steadfast in taking all necessary measures to ensure that the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities are respected, promoted and protected. We recognize that the CRPD is both a human rights and a development document. Our Magna Carta for Persons with Disability, enacted in 1992, has been continually enhanced to respond to the evolving needs and concerns of the sector, stressing that persons with disabilities are rights holders and not objects of charity. The process of updating the Magna

Carta, true to the principles of the CRPD, involves the active participation of and gives weight to the voice of persons with disabilities, from formulation to implementation. Additionally, the State developed a Human Rights Based Approach in Legislation which assesses legislative measures vis-à-vis human rights principles.

The Government works to align its national action plans with the CRPD. The Philippine Development Plan 2023 to 2028 guarantees strengthened social protection programs and universal accessibility for persons with disabilities, including policies that promote inclusive education and increased political participation.

The Ambisyon 2040 (Vision 2040) strives towards a highlevel economic performance for the Philippines society where persons with disabilities are among the priority groups.

In pursuing their right to access employment and livelihood opportunities, the Government is leveraging technology-enabled business models and providing a supportive policy environment for them. It aims to close the digital divide and make technology accessible for persons with disabilities.

The Government espouses disability-inclusive governance through a law that mandates the establishment of a disability affairs office in every local government unit. Preference is given for qualified persons with disabilities to

head such offices. These offices are enjoined to coordinate with local disability organizations, allowing the Government to reach the grassroots level.

The Philippines, through its whole-of-nation approach, abides by its commitments under the Incheon Strategy of Making the Right Real for Persons with Disabilities and the recently adopted Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2023 – 2032.

While substantial strides had been made to fully implement the CRPD nationally, challenges remain, including in the area of data and statistics. The Philippines works together with international partners, including organizations of persons with disabilities, to address these challenges.

Thank you.