



**51st Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 10: Enhanced ID on the HC report on the Philippines
5 October 2022**

Delivered by Mr. Froilan ALIPAO

Thank you, Chairperson.

We welcome the High Commissioner's report on the progress and results of the UN Joint Program in the Philippines, which accurately assesses the persistence of impunity for human rights abuses, including the lack of access to justice by victims of extrajudicial killings and their families. The continuation of the War on Drugs, as well as the red tagging of human rights defenders also remain pressing issues in the country.

Between January 2016 and February 2022, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) reported an alarming 6,235 drug-related extrajudicial killings,¹ although findings from civil society organisations indicate more than 27,000 cases.² Additionally, violence, intimidation, and arrests of “red tagged” human rights defenders continue to endanger the democratic arena.

Despite the implementation of the UN Joint Program and the inauguration of a new Government in 2022, we remain strongly concerned with the shrinking space of civil society and the persisting culture of impunity in the country.

After taking office, the new administration reinforced the disengagement of the Philippines from the International Criminal Court and announced the continuation of the War on Drugs. The Government consistently fails to adequately cooperate with the UN Joint Program and to investigate, prosecute and enforce comprehensive mechanisms to address the systematic and mass human rights violations.

Now, more than ever, the support of the international community is crucial to tackle the lack of domestic accountability and to prevent future human rights violations. Therefore, we call on the Human Rights Council to keep the situation of the Philippines as a priority matter, with the adoption of a follow-up resolution establishing a Commission of Inquiry for the Philippines.

Thank you.

¹ Republic of the Philippines, Office of the President, Philippines Drug Enforcement Agency, #REALNUMBERSPH, From July 1, 2016, to February 28, 2022. Available at: <https://pdea.gov.ph/2-uncategorised/279-realnumbersph>

² Rappler, “Duterte gov’t tally: Drug war deaths top 5,500 before SONA 2019”, Sofia Tomacruz, 18 July 2019. Available at: <https://www.rappler.com/nation/duterte-government-tally-drug-war-deaths-before-sona-2019>