



PHILIPPINES

**Human Rights Council Intersessional Meeting for
Dialogue and Cooperation on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development**

Theme: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality

Room XX, Palais des Nations

16 January 2019

STATEMENT

The Philippines welcomes these discussions in the Human Rights Council as an expression of our determination to pursue the closer alignment between the development and human rights pillars of the United Nations in our work at the national and global level. We hope that this intersessional process will have clear outcomes that reflect this collective determination, as well as the balance of many perspectives and best practices that are being expressed.

At the national level, the Philippines fully recognizes the interdependence between human rights and the SDGs. The core principles of the human rights-based approach (accountability, equity-focus, and empowerment) have informed the Philippine Development Plan 2017 to 2022 as well as “Our Ambition 2040”, the more long-term national vision. These frameworks address disadvantage and marginalization, ensuring that the interests of vulnerable sectors are considered, consistent with the tenet of “leaving no one behind.” The human rights-based approach has similarly been applied in the coordination and monitoring work for the SDGs at the national level, and in an inclusive manner, recognizing the contributions of the civil society and the private sector in the implementation of the SDGs. The Philippines was one of the first states to report on the Voluntary National Review, and it continues to engage the UN and other states towards the improvement of the review and implementation of the SDG agenda.

The Philippines acknowledges the merits of a more integrative approach to the SDGs and human rights as they are mutually reinforcing and unequivocally overlapping. However, we know that this is not a naturally easy process given the following:

- 1) reporting processes for SDGs and human rights vary in methodology, language and requirements;
- 2) SDG monitoring has a technical approach that utilizes quantitative data and economic statistics while human rights reports, specifically the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), are more qualitative in substance; and,
- 3) there is a difference in scope of monitoring and reporting on the State's progress. In human rights, the basis is the State's accepted recommendations under the UPR process. In SDGs, report is based on the 169 targets and is further contextualized in the country by a set of indicators that are relevant, regularly monitored and which has an existing data collection methodology.

The Philippines agrees that the metrics agreed in SDG methodology can be made more useful in tracking progress in the realisation of a wide range of human rights, in the reporting for the UPR and the Treaty Bodies. We believe that such steps can create efficiencies and synergies that may have the effect of lessening the burden of the bureaucracy of reporting on developing states, and the politicisation of human rights.