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**Human Rights Council**

**Fifty-second session**

27 February–31 March 2023

Agenda item 6

**Universal periodic review**

**Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**[[1]](#footnote-2)\*

**Philippines**

**Addendum**

**Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review**

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GPH) presents its final responses and actions on the recommendations arising from its 4th cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on 14 November 2022.

2. Of the 289 recommendations received by the GPH in this review cycle, 200 were accepted outright and reported during the 41st session on the UPR Working Group of the UN Human Rights Council on 16 November 2022. These accepted recommendations fall within the scope of relevant GPH human rights policies, programs, and initiatives already in place and reinforce progress in their implementation, as follows:

(a) On implementing the Philippine Human Rights Plan;

(b) On implementing the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights;

(c) On promoting the rights to education, health, and adequate standard of living;

(d) On upholding the rights of persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, women, children, refugees, and stateless persons;

(e) On combating discrimination and gender-based violence;

(f) On maintaining moratorium on the death penalty;

(g) On addressing allegations of extra-judicial killings;

(h) On conducting independent investigations on alleged human rights violation cases;

(i) On decongesting prisons;

(j) On further expanding access to justice;

(k) On protecting human rights defenders and journalists; and

(l) On enhancing the work of the independent national human rights institution (INHRI), i.e., Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP).

3. The remaining 89 recommendations were carefully reviewed by the GPH[[2]](#endnote-2), with inputs considered from various stakeholders, specifically offices under the GPH’s Executive department and the CHRP.

4. An additional 15 recommendations relating to the following were accepted:

* UN Joint Programme on Human Rights (146.28);
* National Action Plan on the Safety of Journalists (146.72);
* National Preventive Mechanism (146.46, 146.47 and 146.49);
* Access to universal health services on during disasters and emergencies (146.45);
* Human rights approach on the strategy against illegal drugs (146.52);
* Adoption of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (146.86);
* Conduct of acts that consider and/ or review to the PH Parliament or Legislature (146.5, 146.8, 146.9, 146.54, 146.73, 146.84, and 146.88).

5. Seventy-four (74) recommendations pertaining to the following issues and concerns were noted:

* Parliamentary/ legislative actions (146.1, 146.2, 146.3, 146.4, 146.6, 146.7, 146.10, 146.11, 146.12, 146.13, 146.14, 146.15, 146.16, 146.17, 146.18, 146.19, 146.20, 146.21, 146.22, 146.23, 146.29, 146.30, 146.31, 146.32, 146.33, 146.34, 146.35, 146. 36, 146.37, 146.38, 146.39, 146.40, 146.41, 146.42, 146.43,146.44, 146.48, 146.50, 146.56, 146.59, 146.60, 146.63, 146.64, 146.68,146.69, 146.70, 146.71, 146.79, 146.80, 146.81, 146.82 and 146.89);
* Special Procedures Mandate Holders (146.24, 146.25, 146.26, 146.27 and 146.78);
* Anti-illegal drug campaign (146.51 and 146.53);
* Civil and political rights (146.55, 146.57, 146.58, 146.61, 146.62, 146.65, 146.66, 146.67, 146.74, 146.75, 146.76 and 146.77);
* Investment for reproductive health (146.83);
* Climate risk (146.85);
* Business and Human Rights (146.87).

6. The GPH noted the above recommendations based on the following considerations:

(a) Those with claims that are moored on less than solid premises or are not in line with the Filipino people’s cultural values, religious beliefs, and national identity. On the latter, the GPH respects cultural rights in accordance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the human right to freedom of religion under Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)[[3]](#endnote-3) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)[[4]](#endnote-4).

(b) Those that relate to legislative or parliamentary actions that must be informed by multi-stakeholder and multi-sector consultations, the results of which may not be aligned with the recommendations. The GPH fully respects the Filipino people’s right to participative governance as qualified by Article 21[[5]](#endnote-5) of the UDHR and Article 25[[6]](#endnote-6) of the ICCPR.

7. Nonetheless, the GPH shall not preclude efforts to positively act upon, as necessary, some of the recommendations that were noted, always respectful of national, cultural, and historical circumstances and constraints, and in response to stakeholder initiatives.

8. The GPH acknowledges the interventions of 107 States in the review process, affirming the UPR as a mechanism that fosters the sharing of good practices by UN Member States in the implementation of human rights commitments and obligations. The UPR process shall remain a relevant guide for the GPH in its continuing efforts for inclusive and responsive fulfillment of human rights for all.

Notes

1. \* The present document is being issued without formal editing. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The review was facilitated by the Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs-UN and other International Organizations, and involved the following Executive agencies: Department of Justice, Department of Health, Climate Change Commission, Dangerous Drugs Board, Office of Civil Defense, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, and Presidential Task Force on Media Security. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Article 18. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Article 18. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Article 21:

   1, Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives;

   2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country;

   3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Article 25. Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions:

   (a) To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;

   (b) To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;

   (c) To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.

   [↑](#endnote-ref-6)