**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Comments and inputs to A/RES/68/268 and A/RES/73/162

1. The Philippines supports the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights’ (OHCHR) initiative to further strengthen and enhance the UN human rights treaty body system and consider this as a necessary measure to ensure the State signatories’ full and effective implementation of UN human rights treaties and instruments on the domestic front, as well as to monitor compliance of the same.
2. The following is an update on the Philippines’ compliance with its reporting obligations under the following treaty bodies:
3. UN Committee Against Torture (3rd periodic report), 27-28 April 2016;
4. UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (7th and 8th periodic reports), 05 July 2016;
5. UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (combined 15th to 20th periodic reports), 13-18 August 2009;
6. UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (combined 5th and 6th periodic reports), 28-29 September 2016;
7. UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (2nd periodic report), 03-04 April 2014;
8. UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (combined 3rd and 4th combined periodic reports), 15 September 2009;
9. UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography (initial report of the Philippines), 22 January 2013;
10. UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (initial report of the Philippines), 30 May 2008;
11. UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (initial report), 12-13 September 2018; and
12. Human Rights Committee (4th periodic report), 15-16 October 2012.
13. the Philippines participated in OHCHR’s training-of-trainers (ToT) on treaty body reporting on 23-27 May 2016 which focused on substantive and procedural elements of treaty body reporting as well as on the human rights training methodology developed by the OHCHR. To replicate this training in the bureaucracy, a workshop on treaty body reporting was conducted by the Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat and Ms. Laurence Andre of the OHCHR on 22 March 2017 at Malacañang, participated in by select government agencies designated to coordinate the State’s compliance with international human rights treaties.[[1]](#footnote-1)
14. On OHCHR’s call for States to adopt the simplified reporting procedure in the preparation of their respective treaty-related reports, we find no reason not to support the same. The Philippines has been using the OHCHR’s simplified reporting procedure in its recent submissions as this provides detailed guidance on the expected content of compliance reports.

The Philippines, however, recommend that in the formulation of the list of issues prior to reporting (LOIPR), the treaty body concerned should make an effort to determine cases mentioned in previous dialogues and which have already been taken up by domestic courts or filed under the complaints/ communications procedures so that the same are not repeatedly mentioned.

1. Finally, on the composition/ membership of the UN treaty bodies, the Philippines agrees that independent experts must be of high moral standing and impartial in connection with the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

It is recommended that there must be a balanced gender representation in the following UN treaty bodies, i.e., UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; UN Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers; UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances; and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. Council for the Welfare of Children, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Justice, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the National Economic and Development Authority. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. There are only five (5) female members in the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; three (3) female members in the UN Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers; one (1) female member in the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; three (3) members in the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances; and one (1) male member in the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)