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**NAM MINISTERIAL MEETING**  
on  
***“Upholding the UN Charter and the Purposes and Principles of the Non-  
Aligned Movement (NAM): Towards a Culture of Peace”***

**26 September 2018 (Wednesday) - 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., - CR3, UNHQ**

**PHILIPPINE STATEMENT**

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY NORALYN JUBAIRA-BAJA**  
**United Nations and Other International Organizations (UNIO)**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs**  
**Republic of the Philippines**

**“THE PHILIPPINES AND THE CULTURE OF PEACE”**

**Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies,**

The Philippines conveys the best wishes of the President of the Republic of the Philippines His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte to the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement for this year’s Ministerial Meeting on the margins of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly.

We also thank the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Chair of NAM, as well as our Senior Officials and the Coordinating Bureau for all their hard work commitment and dedication.

This Ministerial Meeting comes at a crucial juncture when the 2018 Global Peace Index reported that “tensions, conflicts and crises that have emerged over the past decade remain unresolved, causing a gradual, sustained decline in global levels of peacefulness.” According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, the global economic impact of violence is estimated at US\$14.76 trillion in purchasing power parity terms in 2017, equivalent to 12.4 percent of global GDP or almost US\$2,000 per person.<sup>1</sup> The need to promote and sustain a “Culture of Peace” has never been greater.

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<sup>1</sup> Global Peace Index 2018: Measuring Peace in a Complex World; Institute for Economics and Peace ([www.visionofhumanity.org](http://www.visionofhumanity.org)).

For Filipinos, promoting a culture of peace is a natural. We have been victims of atrocities in two wars—the first time in the independence we fought for and achieved; which was taken from us by avowed friends of freedom. The second time in a more unlikely scheme to share with the conquered the prosperity of the conqueror's empire at the point of a samurai sword.

But we never committed mass atrocities no matter the provocation. There is something in the temper of my race that recoils from excess. Most recently, after a successful revolution, we moved on, former friends and enemies, and never looked back in anger.

The Philippines continues its work to promote a culture of peace at the national, regional and multilateral levels.

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the **national level**, the Philippines enacted last 26 July 2018 the *Bangsamoro Organic Law* which outlines the new peace and development roadmap for our own *Bangsamoro Peace Process*. This law caps months of sustained engagement with stakeholders characterized by the inclusion of all people living in the Muslim autonomous region by continuing dialogue not hectoring monologue; by confidence-building in, not just the politically connected; and the self-confidence of the Christian majority – so rare in other conflicts – to acknowledge the self-identity of our Muslim brothers and sisters as *Bangsamoro*.

It is guided by the president's directive to ensure the inclusivity and convergence of the two peace agreements with the MNLF and MILF into one *Bangsamoro Peace Process*.

In the spirit of inclusivity, in the desire for the widest participation, and in the hope of the closest convergence, we want our *Bangsamoro* people, along with the larger Filipino community, to take ownership of peacebuilding. It is all our peace; none of it imposed; all of it willingly undertaken.

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the **regional level** and in line with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 which complements the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ASEAN, under the Philippines' chairmanship, adopted the Declaration on Culture of Prevention (CoP) for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society at the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2017 in Manila. This Declaration manifests ASEAN's strong resolve "to promote a building block and as an innovative approach to sustainable social and human development."

ASEAN's Declaration on Culture of Prevention is our way of pursuing "a credible pathway to sustaining peace" through six (6) key thrusts in conformity with the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter: promoting a culture of peace and intercultural understanding; respect for all; good governance at all levels; resilience and care for the environment; healthy lifestyle; and a culture supporting the values of moderation.

ASEAN will strengthen efforts to support and promote a culture of prevention not only to pursue a credible pathway to sustaining peace, but also to foster a preventive mindset so that this becomes part of the socio-cultural DNA of ASEAN.

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the multilateral level, Pakistan and the Philippines have co-sponsored a UN General Assembly resolution under the Culture of Peace agenda since 2004, which currently contains two-fold objectives:

One, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue to achieve peace and stability and as the most promising course for realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and

Two, to strengthen mechanisms and take appropriate action to promote sincere and constructive dialogue across cultural and religious divides.

The first reduces the material causes of conflict arising from the frustration of basic human needs. The second reduces the intellectual obstacles to mutual understanding thereby fostering mutual respect and tolerance despite continuing disagreement.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Today, the world continues to witness a growing trend of xenophobia and religious intolerance, underpinned by the politics of identity as well as the emergence of extremist ideologies. The trust deficit and the lack of understanding among the various religions and civilizations are being exploited by extremist and terrorist groups to propagate their agenda.

As UN Member States, we have a shared responsibility to achieve a world at peace through mutual respect, tolerance, acceptance, reconciliation, and respect for the rule of law, whereby conflict is avoided and injustice corrected by means conducive to peace rather than provocative of war.

We therefore need to continue to build on our shared values and shared aspirations by strengthening mechanisms and actions through interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation.

The Philippines walks and works with the community of nations, including the Non-Aligned Movement committed to achieving inclusive societies and a shared prosperity towards a global culture of peace.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies.