



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT

Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations
**“Exchange of information on State practices regarding the resort to regional agencies
or arrangements”**

2023 Session of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the
Strengthening of the Role of the Organization
22 February 2023 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Conference Rooms 1, United Nations Headquarters

Mister Chair,

Thank you, Mister Chair. At the outset, the Philippines aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Philippines welcomes this annual thematic debate. In reminding us of the peaceful means of dispute settlement, it promotes the development of international law and adherence to the rule of law.

Under Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations, the parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by, *inter alia*, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice. Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, meanwhile, provides the constitutional basis for the involvement of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security for which the Security Council is primarily responsible.

The Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes further states that “States parties to regional arrangements or agencies shall make every effort to achieve pacific settlement of their local disputes through such regional arrangements or agencies before referring them to the Security Council.” However, this does not preclude States from bringing any dispute to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly in accordance with the Charter.

As a Member State of the ASEAN, the Philippines is part of an intergovernmental organization that is committed to upholding the principles stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations and to maintaining and promoting peace, security, and stability in our region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with international law.

We support strengthening ASEAN’s partnerships with other external partners including regional and international organizations, such as the United Nations, to address global concerns.

The ASEAN way of consensus building, sustained engagement, respect for the views of all parties concerned and fundamental principles of international law, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, non-interference in internal affairs and peaceful settlement of disputes, has been instrumental in addressing common challenges.

ASEAN's evolution as a dynamic intergovernmental organization in the region is inextricably tied to its constitution, the ASEAN Charter, and other relevant instruments, such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Nevertheless, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, does not preclude recourse to other peaceful means of settling disputes. For instance, although the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation is a legally binding agreement, it contains an array of options for peaceful dispute settlement, including by means of negotiation, mediation, conciliation and use of the good offices of a High Council, it does not prescribe a particular form of dispute settlement and does not exclude recourse to compulsory dispute settlement procedures.

Thank you.