Philippines

General Debate

*Speaker: H.E. Mr. Jaime Victor B. Ledda, Ambassador to the Netherlands*

The Philippines reaffirms its commitment to fighting impunity. Consistent with the principle of complementarity, and as part of our duty of cooperation, we strive to ensure that our criminal justice system is transparent, fair, effective and relatively speedy, allowing for the prosecution of the crimes under the Rome Statute. The Philippine legislation enacted in 2009 on *Crimes against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity* (Republic Act. No. 9551) paved the way for our ratification of the Rome Statute.

With regard to the relationship between the Court and the Security Council, the Philippines has joined the call on the Council to take the necessary follow-up measures on situations it has referred to the Court. In this regard, the Philippines also joined the “Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes”, elaborated in the context of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group in the UN General Assembly. The P5 should refrain from using their veto in situations involving mass atrocity crimes under the jurisdiction of the Court.

With regard to the reorganization project: we hope the balance of personnel in the Court in terms of gender and geographical representation among the States Parties, and would appreciate receiving a more detailed explanation on the criteria for personnel retention.

As States Parties we should help each other in building domestic capacities, including through human resource development-related assistance like the training of judges, prosecutors, the police and the military.

Universality: we join the call for many more countries to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute, particularly form our Asia-Pacific region.