



**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**Transcript: Video Statement of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines**

**51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Item 10: Enhanced interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on technical cooperation and capacity-building for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines**

**5 October 2022**

Excellencies,

The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines is grateful for this opportunity to provide its statement on the current implementation of the national joint program on human rights between the UN and the Philippine government following the Human Rights Council resolution 45/33 in 2020.

We acknowledge the important initial steps taken by the government and the UN to implement, establish, and organize the meetings of the Steering Committee and the technical working groups, including identifying the capacity building activities.

The UN Joint Program (UNJP) is an opportunity to make real change, more so with the new mandate given by the people to the new administration in the Philippines and its subsequent expression of continuing support for its implementation.

We recognize the building blocks laid down through the UNJP to pave the way for long-term, structural reforms, including institutionalizing respect for human rights in the bureaucracy. At the same time, we draw attention to pressing challenges pertaining to accountability for cases of human rights violations in the country. We see the need for confidence-building measures from the government so that witnesses are encouraged in aid in pursuing justice for victims and their families. The government has an important role in encouraging a constructive dialogue on human rights, including respect and protection of human rights defenders and advocates.

Increased visibility on the workings of the joint program will similarly sustain the public's interest and keep this initiative on track. There is a need to sustain the progress made under the UNJP. The CHR lends an open hand—and heart—to move things forward, and moving things forward quickly is now a must. We extend any form of cooperation in addressing our collective challenges to human rights and dignity.

Ang CHR ay para sa lahat. Maraming salamat po.