

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DELIVERED BY H.E. JAIME VICTOR B. LEDDA
AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS**

General Debate

**Seventeenth Session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute
6 December 2018, The Hague**

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to speak in this Assembly of States Parties.

The Philippines' decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is our principled stand against those who politicize human rights, even as our country's independent and well-functioning organs and agencies continue to exercise jurisdiction over complaints, issues, problems and concerns arising from its efforts to protect its people.

The Philippines is guided by the rule of law embodied in its Constitution, which also enshrines the country's long-standing tradition and commitment to human rights. Its democratic institutions, including the judiciary, are fully functioning, and government agencies are working together to address the drug problem, from community-level engagements to rehabilitation, from law enforcement to investigation and prosecution. Developments in the Philippines demonstrate that our country, our institutions, our people ensure justice and the rule of law in our country prevail and will prevail.

We affirm our commitment to fight against impunity for atrocity crimes, notwithstanding our withdrawal from the Rome Statute, especially since the Philippines has national legislation punishing such crimes.

In view of our withdrawal, Mr. Vice President, the Philippines disengages itself from the deliberations on the Omnibus Resolution and from any consensus that may be reached in the course of this Assembly.

Thank you.