



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



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## PhilConGen Joins PHL Commemoration of 75<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of U.N. Charter



27 October 2020, Los Angeles – In commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> adoption of the Charter of the United Nations (U.N.), the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), in partnership with the Philippine Society of International Law (PSIL) and the Philippine Association of Law Schools (PALS), held a virtual web forum entitled, “In Larger Freedom: 75 Years of the Philippines and the Charter of the United Nations” on 21 October 2020 (PST). The session highlighted the country’s contribution in the United Nations since its inception in 1945 up to the present.



In his opening remarks, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin Jr., emphasized the Charter’s aspiration for peace and stability, anchored on mutual respect for the sovereignty of states. It also recognizes the duty of the states to keep the peace and to uphold an international order that is impartially rules-based. *(Photo left)*

According to Secretary Locsin, the inclusivity of the Charter, extending even to those who were yet to gain recognition as sovereign nations then, was the Philippines’ most important contribution to the U.N. He quoted the late Carlos P. Romulo, who was President of the 4<sup>th</sup> U.N. General Assembly from 1949 to 1950 and who said, “*what we have done is to create the third world in the UN, the admission of all these nations that otherwise could not have been independent if we did not make that change in the article 76 of the UN charter.*”

*“Philippines was [also] one of the founding members of the U.N.,”* added by Philippine Permanent Representative in the U.N. in New York, Ambassador Enrique A. Manalo.

Ambassador Manalo discussed three thematic areas highlighting the Philippines' historical contribution as Chair of the Special Committee of the U.N. Charter; its upholding of the principles of the U.N. Charter especially the peaceful means of dispute settlement and non-use of force; and the need to amend the anachronistic parts of the UN Charter.

Another speaker in the virtual forum was University of the Philippines College of Law Professor, Andre C. Palacios, who provided an overview of the United Nations and its accomplishments in protecting and advancing Philippine interests. His talk also emphasized the Philippines' role in defining the U.N.'s future.

Following the presentations were the reactions given by the Department of Justice Undersecretary Emmiline Aglipay-Villar, Philippine Embassy in The Netherlands Consul Zoilo Velasco, PSIL Secretary Prof. Romel Bagares and Prof. Maria Luisa Rosales.

The Philippines was one of the 21 subsequent signatories to the 1942 United Nations Declaration, which became the basis of the United Nations Charter. It was also one of the 50 founding members which signed the Charter on 26 June 1945 at the San Francisco Conference. The UN Charter came into force on 24 October 1945.

Joining over seven hundred participants across the globe were Deputy Consul General Ambrosio Brian F. Enciso III, Political Officer Consul Rea G. Oreta and Information Officer Mary Grace “Joss” D. Leaño. END.