

PHILIPPINES, ITEM 8

60th SESSION OF THE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC) AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: CAPACITY-BUILDING IN SPACE LAW 4 June 2021

To be delivered by
DFA-OTLA ACTING DIRECTOR SHIRLEY NUEVO

[Time Limit: 7 Minutes]

Thank you, Madam Chair.

1. The Philippines attaches great importance to capacity-building -- including in the areas of space law, space policy and space diplomacy – for we recognize that it is through legislation, policy and diplomacy that we guide, shape, promote and advance the peaceful uses of outer space.
2. As we build our space program from the ground up, with the Philippine Space Agency or PhilSA established very recently, we consider it a matter of priority to train our new space lawyers, policy-makers and practitioners, as well as diplomats not only to be knowledgeable in, but also in a position to think critically about various aspects of space law. In this regard, please allow me to highlight some of our **national initiatives** to strengthen our capacity in this area.

Madam Chair,

3. Last October 2020, the Philippines organized a webinar on international space cooperation, with a focus on the five (5) UN treaties on outer space. We invited distinguished experts in the field of space law to discuss the salient features, applications and limitations of these treaties. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to UNOOSA Director Simonetta di Pippo for gracing the event, and for Mr Niklas Hedman for joining our panel of experts. Following this successful event, we intend to publish the proceedings of the webinar, to make available to the general public the lessons learned.
4. When it comes to capacity-building, the Philippines considers it important to provide equal opportunities for the advancement of women in space. In line with this goal, the Philippines also organized a webinar on gender equality in the Philippine space sector in March this year. Once again, we thank UNOOSA for joining us during the event and for providing an overview of the Space4Women project. We congratulate the recently-announced 2021 Space4Women Mentor cohort and thank them for inspiring girls and women to pursue careers in space, including in space law.
5. Furthermore, our colleagues at the PhilSA have been participating in various trainings and workshops – from science diplomacy to international law to the treaty ratification process – to develop even further the human resources of our newly-established space agency.

Madam Chair,

6. At the **bilateral level**, the Philippine Space Agency and UNOOSA signed an MoU earlier today, in line with our shared goals and objectives regarding the promotion of and capacity-building on the use of space science and technology for sustainable development. We look forward to the implementation of the MoU, which has international law as one of the areas of cooperation.
7. At the **regional level**, we appreciate the opportunity to have participated in the Study Group of the National Space Legislation Initiative (NSLI) of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF). We are pleased to have shared the Philippine experience with the Study Group, as well as learned from the practices of other States in the region, allowing us to gain better insight on the various applications of space law – from frequency allocation, to space commercialization, to satellite operations. We hope to use this knowledge as we plan additional legislation that will support and complement the Philippine Space Act and the five (5) UN treaties.
8. At the **multilateral level**, we appreciate UNOOSA's continued assistance to Member States, especially developing countries, in building their respective national capacities in space law, including through the Space Law for New Space Actors Programme. We also look forward to discussions at the World Space Forum on the four pillars of space economy, space society, space accessibility and space diplomacy.
9. Finally, Madam Chair, we also wish to draw attention to the importance of capacity-building in space policy and diplomacy for developing countries, especially emerging space-faring and space-capable nations, to enable them to engage more actively in our meetings, and benefit fully from their membership in the Committee. As we continue negotiations on the Space2030 Agenda, which seeks to identify space applications that will contribute to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, **we underscore the need for developing countries to have a louder voice in shaping international policies that are being developed with their particular needs in mind.**

Thank you, Madam Chair.