PHILIPPINES

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STATEMENT

by

MR. EDUARDO JOSE A. DE VEGA
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On

Agenda Item 82
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the United Nations

before the

Sixth Committee

In cooperation with the American Branch of the International Law Association together with the International Law Students Association, the Philippine Mission is organizing a panel to discuss the continuing relevance of the Manila Declaration. This will be held at the Fordham University School of Law, in the Upper West Side, on Friday, 26 October 2012, at 3:00 PM. We hope that you could join us.

Mr. Chairman, may I briefly emphasize four points.

First, the Philippines has fully subscribed to the proper procedure in the presentation and negotiation of the draft resolution, in the spirit of transparency and genuine cooperation.

Second, the draft resolution, in itself, is a product of extensive, open and transparent consultations. We are not presenting anything new.

Third, the draft resolution reflects consensus, and we thank delegations for their constructive approach during the deliberations that led to that consensus.

Fourth, the draft resolution was adopted by the Working Group of the Whole of
the Special Committee. Therefore, it is no longer just the Philippines' proposal. It is the proposal of the Special Committee.

The Manila Declaration is one of the most significant achievements of the Special Committee. As a matter of fact, the Manila Declaration is the first important instrument of the work of the Special Committee.

We hope that the Sixth Committee will find it fitting to commemorate this achievement.

We hope that the Sixth Committee will endorse the recommendation of the Special Committee for the plenary of the General Assembly to adopt the commemorative draft resolution found in paragraph 57, or page 10, of the report.

In formally tabling the draft resolution on behalf of the Bureau, the Philippines is grateful for the support extended by delegations to the crafting of the draft resolution. This is the support that reflects the consensus achieved not only during the last session of the Special Committee, but more importantly, the consensus that allowed for the historic adoption of the Manila Declaration thirty years ago. This is the basis of our decision to remember and to renew our pledge to commit to the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Thank you very much.

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