STATEMENT

Delivered by H.E. LIBRAN N. CABACTULAN
Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations

Introducing the Draft Resolution on the “Promotion of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace”
(Document A/69/L.41)

under agenda item 15 on Culture of Peace
15 December 2014

Thank you, Mr President.

The Philippines joins our co-facilitator Pakistan in introducing the draft resolution on the “Promotion of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace”, appearing as document A/69/L.41 under agenda item 15 on the Culture of Peace.

This year, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the resolution. It is fitting that we do so with the adoption by UNESCO last March 2014 of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures. Hence the Resolution “encourages Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to carry out activities in support of the Action Plan.”

Aside from continuing its recognition of the valuable role of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as the focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, the resolution strengthens its support for the work and activities of UNESCO, the lead agency for the implementation of the Resolution and of the Action Plan. It especially welcomes the UNESCO Peace and Dialogue e-Portal as a means of promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue through information technology, a tool that is particularly relevant in reaching out to the youth.
The Resolution also continues to welcome the deepening engagement of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and welcomes the Bali Declaration of the Sixth Global Forum of the UNAOC, with the theme “Unity in Diversity: Celebrating Diversity for Common and Shared Values,” which was held in Bali, Indonesia, on 29-30 August 2014.

I cannot overemphasize the value of what we continue to do in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and how that dialogue serves as the foundation for a just and lasting peace. As we approach the banner year of 2015, the Resolution recognizes the importance of giving due consideration to culture in the ongoing discussions of the post-2015 development agenda. Without peace, there can be no sustainable development.

Mr. President,

The pursuit of universal peace is not easy. It is also not a short-term issue or goal. Hence we believe that the affirmation of the need for mutual understanding of our diversity in religions as well as cultures and the dialogue of civilizations on an annual basis is essential in the culture of peace.

We also believe that interreligious and intercultural dialogue is not an issue that cannot be taken in isolation or that stands by itself. The initiatives and other resolutions under this agenda item – including the resolution on the Culture of Peace – complement and build on each other, as they address different dimensions of the issue.

Mr. President,

Allow us at this point to thank the Member States that have traditionally cosponsored and supported this resolution and to welcome and thank those Member States that are cosponsoring the resolution for the first time.

Finally, we wish to thank all delegations that actively contributed to the discussions, and exercised honesty, flexibility, constructiveness and cooperation.

On behalf of Pakistan and the other co-sponsors, I have the honor of submitting this draft resolution for adoption.

Thank you, Mr. President.