

## **EXCERPTS FROM PREVIOUS REMARKS**

**25 August 2018**

### **On Respect for the Rule of Law**

**The Philippines is known for respecting the rule of law. We should therefore peacefully resist in the strongest manner any unlawful attacks against the rules-based international system including threats to our sovereign rights.**

### **On the Philippines Being Lax**

**Whereas the Philippines appears to have been lax in enforcing what is right, it is not too late. We can still redirect ourselves to help achieve a global order wherein right is might.**

**We must not be willing victims by supporting and fueling China's non adherence to the rule of law. We also must not be silent as, by being silent, we are encouraging further aggression into what is ours.**

### **On President Duterte's Recent Strong Statements Against China**

**We see that President Duterte has recently been taking a stronger stand in defending what is ours in accordance with international law.**

**This is a positive development in moving forward The Hague outcome. We cannot promote the rule of law while shelving an integral part of international law as it now stands, inclusive of UNCLOS.**

### **On Advocating a Rules-Based Order**

**Advocating a rules-based regime is what we are, and what we must do. We must endeavor to rally the responsible community of nations. But before that, Filipinos must first speak with one voice – that adherence to the rule of law is the only way forward.**

**We must also police our conduct and declarations to avoid undermining our lawful rights and interests.**

**On International Law Being the Great Equalizer**

**The rules-based international system has been the great equalizer in global affairs and the bedrock of peace, order and fairness in modern countries.**

**International law has given equal voice regardless of political, economic or military stature.**

**On Maritime Cooperation**

**Maritime cooperation in the region is a great importance when we see challenges to the global rules-based order.**

**All claimants are urged to clarify their claims in accordance with international law and to refrain from pursuing these claims through unilateral actions.**

**On China's Militarization of the South China Sea**

**Beijing militarization of the South China Sea remains one of the most important and contentious external threats in the region.**

**Notwithstanding the invalidation of its nine dash line claim by the UN PCA, China continues to flex its muscle to deprive us of our sovereign rights. The Philippines must stand for the rule of law and rally the support of other countries.**

**On Code of Conduct**

**The Code of Conduct, it has been said, has the potential to help address disputes and the decrease of tensions. It should be consistent with existing international laws including UNCLOS. It should also not prejudice the interests of third parties on the rights of all states under the law.**

**We believe that the arbitral tribunal outcome should be part of the COC. We cannot promote the rule of law while ignoring the rule of law as it stands.**

**On ASEAN**

**While most countries strive for a rules-based order in ASEAN, Beijing's unilateralism has put this common view at great risk. ASEAN must counter this challenge to its centrality and solidarity with the response on three components: promoting the rule of law, strengthening multilateralism and evolving as a regional body.**

**On Threats of War**

**As Professor Amitav Acharya of American University observes, an aggressive denial of South China Sea trade routes to world powers would be self-injurious. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi corroborates this view.**

**On One Belt, One Road**

**This is the new shape of China's economic and diplomatic ambitions. It is a huge three trillion-dollar campaign in the Middle East, Europe, Asia and Africa. It is an ambitious project targeting trade and diplomatic ties with more than 60 countries. The QUAD is viewed as a significant part of China's grand strategy to replace the US as the world superpower.**

**On QUAD**

**QUAD is a loose security association which brings together US, Japan, Australia and India. The QUAD is about respective concerns on the emergence of China as a regional power.**

**The Philippines has a mutual defense treaty with the US, Japan and Australia are security partners. It may serve as a constraint on Philippines tendency to tilt closer to China. The QUAD.**