



Republic of the Philippines

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS

February 2, 2018

SECRETARY ALLAN PETER S. CAYETANO

Department of Foreign Affairs
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Dear **Secretary Cayetano**:

On December 18, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 62/139 declaring April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) in perpetuity to give voices to the millions of individuals worldwide who are undiagnosed, misunderstood, and looking for help to improve their lives so that they can lead full and meaningful lives. With this significant event, the Day's observance would shine a bright light on autism as a growing global health crisis. Copy of the said resolution is attached for your ready reference and perusal.

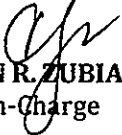
In consonance with this global event, the Philippines is joining with the rest of the countries of the world in commemorating the WAAD thru the holding of a Light-It-Up Blue (LIUB) ceremony nationwide on April 2. LIUB is a campaign that started in New York City, New York, USA on the date the WAAD was adopted under the auspices of Autism Speaks, a US-based non-governmental organization that promoted global support for persons with autism. To celebrate this activity, iconic landmarks, skyscrapers, schools, businesses, and homes around the world unite by shining with blue lights. In this way, all people affected by autism are honored.

In this regard, we would like to request the Department to issue a Memorandum Circular/Order or similar directive addressed to the heads of your Bureaus, Regional Offices, Division Offices, Philippine Embassies and Consulates Abroad and affiliated entities requiring them to extend full support to the observance of this weeklong event thru (1) hanging of streamers in conspicuous places of their offices, and (2) by conducting activities that are fitting and appropriate to their settings. The layout design of the streamer can be downloaded at the NCDA website <http://www.ncda.gov.ph>.

Should you need further information on the matter, please feel free to contact the staff in-charge, Mr. Jayme J. Mariño, thru Telephone Nos. 951-5013 and/or 932-6422 local 111.

We would deeply appreciate your favorable accommodation of our request.

Very truly yours,


CARMEN R. ZUBIAGA
Officer-in-Charge

Encl.: as stated.

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General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 January 2008

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 66 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/62/435)]

62/139. World Autism Awareness Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹ and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,² as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling also the Convention on the Rights of the Child³ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁴ according to which children with disabilities should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community, as well as the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children,

Affirming that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities is critical to achieving internationally agreed development goals,

Aware that autism is a lifelong developmental disability that manifests itself during the first three years of life and results from a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain, mostly affecting children in many countries irrespective of gender, race or socio-economic status, and characterized by impairments in social interaction, problems with verbal and non-verbal communication and restricted, repetitive behaviour, interests and activities,⁵

Deeply concerned by the prevalence and high rate of autism in children in all regions of the world and the consequent development challenges to long-term health care, education, training and intervention programmes undertaken by Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as well as its tremendous impact on children, their families, communities and societies,

¹ See resolution 60/1.

² See resolution 55/2.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁴ Resolution 61/106, annex I.

⁵ See *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems*, tenth revision (subcategories F84.0 and F84.1), endorsed by the forty-third World Health Assembly in May 1990.

Recalling that early diagnosis and appropriate research and interventions are vital to the growth and development of the individual,

1. *Decides* to designate 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day, to be observed every year beginning in 2008;

2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Autism Awareness Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of autism;

3. *Encourages* Member States to take measures to raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding children with autism;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and United Nations organizations.

*76th plenary meeting
18 December 2007*



The **National Council on Disability Affairs**



joins the nation in celebrating

11th WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

April 2, 2018

Theme: "Empowering Women and Girls with Autism"



