

**DRAFT STATEMENT BY BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
DURING THE REVIEW OF PHILIPPINES AT THE 13TH SESSION OF
THE WORKING GROUP OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**29 MAY 2012
PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA**

Thank you Madam President,

On behalf of the delegation of Brunei Darussalam, we would like to thank the delegation of The Philippines led by Secretary Leila M. De Lima for the extensive presentation of the national report.

We are encouraged by the wide consultations carried out by the Government of The Philippines in preparing its report for this second cycle and the progress it has made in promoting the well-being of its people through various initiatives, including the implementation of the accepted recommendations. We appreciate that more efforts have been made to meet the basic needs of the poor and other vulnerable groups and recommend that this ~~to~~ be maintained with the view to achieving an adequate standard of living for all.

Brunei Darussalam commends the Government for actively pursuing various efforts to further protect the rights of women and children, especially through the enactment of several legislations. Therefore, we would like to recommend The Philippines to maintain the momentum on this matter.

We also wish to congratulate The Philippines on developing its National Strategic Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2011 – 2016), including its strengthened efforts towards combating this problem at the national and international levels. Further, we would like to recommend The Philippines to share its experiences and best practices in this area.

As a fellow member of ASEAN, we acknowledge the contribution made by The Philippines in the region, and we look forward to continuing our work in the promotion and protection of human rights through ASEAN mechanisms.

Thank you, Madam President.