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Statement by HE Mr. Sun Suon, Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the UN Office at Geneva  
at the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR WG of HRC for The Philippines (29 June 2012)

Mme. President,

- 1 Cambodia wishes to extend its warmest welcome to the delegation of the Philippines led by H.E. Mrs. Leila De Lima, Secretary of Justice of the Philippines at this 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group. We thank the Delegation for introducing the National Report updating a number of important developments in the Philippines, along with the continued challenges ahead following the first UPR process on the promotion and protection of Human Rights in the country.
- 2 Cambodia take note with appreciation of the progress made by the Government of the Philippines through the implementation of the most recent relevant plans, policies, programs, and particular those related actions pertaining to major strategic tracks of its human rights advocacy in various fields of human rights.
- 3 We welcome the Philippine Development Plan for 2011-2016 which aims to further achieve inclusive growth through the pursuit of the different Millennium Development Goals. The country's efforts in adopting the Human Rights Plan 2012-2017, including the notable measures that the Philippines has undertaken in the fight against human trafficking, through the adoption of the provisions of Magna Carta of Women ( 2009) are noteworthy. We congratulate the Philippines Governments efforts to strengthen the justice system, along with the country's accession to certain important international treaties namely the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (My 2011), and the Rome Statute (August 2011).
- 4 The Philippines actively promotes human rights within the Southeast Asian region, particularly through the vision of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Socio-Cultural Community. As a fellow member of ASEAN, we also look forward to working with the Philippines through regional framework such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on human rights and other related bodies.
- 5 Obviously human rights requires the process of sustained action, therefore we recommend that the country continues their efforts in addressing all the remaining challenges of human rights, in particular, in the fields of promotion of economic growth, and social protection and equity with special attention given to women's and children's rights through its existing programs and plans of action. Thank you