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Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
13th Session

Review of the Philippines

Intervention made by Egypt
29 May 2012

Madame President,

My delegation welcomes H.E. Leila de Lima the Secretary of Justice of the Philippines and her accompanying delegation and expresses appreciation for the clear presentation of the Philippines national report today.

The report acknowledges the challenges and the achievements in the human rights area. My delegation takes positive note of the parallel and equal commitment to civil and political rights on a par with economic, social and cultural rights, including the enhancement of the justiciability of those rights. We particularly welcome steps taken towards poverty eradication, and ending impunity, including through enhancing investigation, and prosecution of perpetrators of human rights violations. My delegation also appreciates the Philippines' leading role in the fight against human trafficking at both the national and international levels.

The Philippines demonstrates a declared commitment to the UPR, including implementation of accepted recommendations from the first cycle. We take positive note of the steps taken to reinforce its legislative and operational frameworks, including the accession to a number of international human rights and other instruments, and their incorporation in national legislation.

My delegation welcomes the adoption in 2009 of the Magna Carta for Women, the Anti Child Pornography Law, as well as the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act. In addition, my delegation would like to learn more on steps taken in the area of improving child and maternal health.

Finally, my delegation would like to present the following recommendations to the government of the Philippines:

1. to continue to consolidate its national action aimed at prohibiting torture.

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2. to continue human rights education and training programmes, including for security and law enforcement officials.
3. to continue to uphold and enact national laws and legislation in accordance with universally agreed human rights standards it has signed up to.
4. to further consolidate its national human rights infrastructure, including support to the Commission on Human Rights.

I thank you.

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