

62

UPR PHILIPPINES
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - TUESDAY 29 MAY 20012
STATEMENT BY NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand welcomes the delegation of the Philippines and thanks them for their presentation and national report.

As the report demonstrates, there have been positive developments in a number of areas. We welcome the priority that the Philippine government has placed on improving transparency and accountability, the mainstreaming of human rights in development plans, and specific measures such as human rights desks in the armed forces and national police.

New Zealand welcomes the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and would be grateful for an update on steps taken to ensure its national legislation is in full alignment with its obligations under the Rome Statute.

New Zealand commends the recent ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and recommends that the Philippines start an open, transparent and inclusive consultation on the most appropriate National Preventive Mechanism.

New Zealand notes the concerns expressed by the CEDAW Committee and other UN mandate holders regarding preventable maternal mortality in the Philippines and the impact of restrictions to health care and services on women's human rights. New Zealand recommends that, in line with its international obligations, the Philippines increase efforts to ensure the rights of individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to the highest attainable standard of sexual and reproductive health.

New Zealand appreciates the positive role the Philippines has played in promoting human rights within ASEAN, and is pleased to continue its cooperation with the region on human rights matters.

We would appreciate hearing more from the Philippines on its promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.
