

**PHILIPPINES**

Statement by  
H.E. Amb. Evan P. Garcia  
Permanent Representative of the Philippines  
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

Human Rights Council  
**14<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**UPR of GABON**  
23 October 2012

Madame President, the Philippine delegation welcomes the delegation of Gabon, headed by H.E. Ms. Ida Reteno Assonouet, Minister of Justice, to the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

The Philippines takes note of the updates in the implementation of its accepted recommendations during the first round of the UPR.

The Philippines also takes note of Gabon's commitment to improve its human rights record and its ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

The Philippine delegation appreciates Gabon's guaranty that fundamental rights of migrant workers and their families are protected and that migrants are treated in the best possible way. My delegation recommends that Gabon remains engaged in discussions on the human rights of migrants, irrespective of their status. It is in this light that my delegation further recommends that Gabon consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families.

Madame President, the Philippine delegation is pleased to note the recent adoption by Gabon's Council of Ministers of a national strategy on equality and gender to promote and protect the rights and welfare of women and children. As a way forward, the Philippines recommends that Gabon continue to implement appropriate measures and allocate necessary resources to ensure that the objectives of its national strategy on equality and gender are achieved. Indeed, sustained efforts to eradicate gender bias and discrimination are encouraging. It deserves continued support from regional partners and the international community.

Madame President, the Philippines is confident that Gabon will remain committed and focused on important tasks ahead to achieve full realization and enjoyment of the human rights of its people. The Philippines joins other States in wishing the Gabonese Government success in its endeavors. Thank you, Madame President.