

**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 GHANA**  
23 October 2012

Madame President,

The Philippine delegation welcomes the delegation of Ghana, headed by H.E. \_\_\_\_\_ to the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review and thanks Ghana for its comprehensive report. The Philippines notes Ghana's steadfast commitment to improve its policies and programs to promote, protect, and fulfil the human rights of its people. The Philippines also notes the many positive developments in Ghana since the consideration of its first UPR report.

On the issue of gender equality and women's rights, my delegation acknowledges the positive steps taken by Ghana to address violations of women's and children's rights more comprehensively, as well as improvements in women's access to education and justice. In particular, the Philippines welcomes the establishment of the Domestic Violence Secretariat, the Crisis Response Centre, the Gender-Based Violence Court, and the amendments made by Ghana in its Criminal Offenses Act of 1960 regarding some harmful cultural practices.

We also applaud Ghana for its continuing policies to protect the rights of migrants and their families. We note especially its early ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families. The Philippines recommends that Ghana consider ratifying ILO Convention 189.

Ghana deserves encouragement and support as it deals with numerous challenges in promoting and protection of human rights for women and their children. It is in this light that the Philippines recommends that Ghana continue its constructive engagement with the international community, particularly its development partners, allowing Ghana to pursue other measures to improve the welfare of its people and advance human rights.

Finally, Madame President, the Philippines recommends that Ghana steps up its efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and protect and assist trafficked victims. As a step forward, my delegation further recommends that Ghana consider ratifying the Palermo Protocol supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. Thank you, Madame President.