

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
14th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

UPR of GUATEMALA
24 October 2012

Madame President,

The Philippine delegation welcomes the delegation of Guatemala to the 2nd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and thanks the Guatemalan government for its comprehensive report.

The Philippines listened with great interest to the opening statement of HE MR. ANTONIO ARENALES FORNO, ^{Secretary of Peace,} and notes the many positive developments in Guatemala since the consideration of its first UPR report. My delegation also notes the inclusive and broad based consultative process undertaken by Guatemala in crafting its current national report.

On the issue women's and children's rights, my delegation acknowledges the affirmative measures taken by Guatemala. The Philippines notes in particular Guatemala's recent domestic legislations addressing discrimination and violence against women and exploitation and trafficking in persons, especially women and children. My delegation also welcomes Guatemala's adoption of the system that will ensure the prompt location and rescue of missing and abducted children.

The Philippines applauds Guatemala for its continuing policies to protect the rights of migrants and their families. My delegation notes that Guatemala is one of the countries that had readily ratified 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.

Madame President, Guatemala has taken great strides in putting into effect numerous structural mechanism and organizations to promote, protect, and fulfil the human rights of its people. Among these are the establishment of the Ministry of Social Development, the Presidential Commission for Combatting Ferricide, the Secretariat on Sexual Violence, Exploitation, and Trafficking in Persons, and the National Commission on Police Reforms. Philippines recommends that Guatemala allocates necessary financial and human resources to these mechanisms and organizations to ensure that their objectives are achieved.

Finally, Madame President, the Philippines joins other nations in encouraging Guatemala to continue to step up its efforts to adhere to the international human rights standards. It is in this light and as a step forward after its ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC, CRPD, and OPCAT, my delegation recommends that Guatemala also considers ratifying the ICCPR-OP 2 on abolition of death penalty and the CEPD on enforced disappearances.

Thank you, Madame President.