

79

*Please Check Against Delivery*

## 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 SRI LANKA  
1 November 2012

Madame President, the Philippine delegation welcomes the delegation of Sri Lanka. The Philippines hails Sri Lanka for the inclusive and transparent process in the drafting of its comprehensive national report.

My delegation acknowledges the great importance that Sri Lanka attaches to the UPR process, as an interactive, collaborative, and inclusive mechanism at which human rights related matters pertaining to the country should be discussed. We appreciate Sri Lanka's voluntary pledges during the 1<sup>st</sup> UPR. We note, however, that the implementation<sup>of</sup> many of these pledges remains unfinished. Hence, the Philippines recommends that Sri Lanka ~~to~~ continue its efforts to complete the implementation of the voluntary pledges.

Madame President, as a country of origin of migrant workers like the Philippines, my delegation welcomes Sri Lanka's deep concern for the protection of migrant workers. However, despite its accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (ICRMW) in 1996, Articles 76 and 77 of that convention remain unaccepted. Thus, the Philippines recommends that Sri Lanka considers accepting Articles 76 and 77 of the ICRMW. In the same light, the Philippines also recommends that Sri Lanka consider ratifying ILO Convention 189.

On the matter of trafficking in persons, the Philippines notes that although Sri Lanka signed the Palermo Protocol more than a decade ago, it remains unratified. Thus, the Philippines recommends that Sri Lanka considers ratifying the Palermo Protocol on human trafficking.

Madame President, as a fellow Asian country and friend, the Philippines wishes Sri Lanka well in its efforts to promote and protect human rights, not only as an end by itself, but also as an indispensable component of peace building and reconciliation.

Thank you, Madame President. END