

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 SWITZERLAND
29 October 2012

Thank you Madam President. The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Switzerland to the 14th session of the UPR Working Group. The Philippines notes the transparent, inclusive and participative process undertaken by Switzerland in the drafting of its comprehensive national report.

The Philippines is pleased about the adoption of policies and programs that strengthened gender equality and women's rights in Switzerland. These includes the grant of maternity leave with pay, stiff penalties for violence against women, and stringent measures against domestic violence and trafficking in persons. The Philippines hails the Swiss Parliament's recent approval of the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking of Human Beings. This is a good follow through for Switzerland's ratification the Palermo Protocol on trafficking in persons.

Madam President, the Swiss government has consistently shown leadership in migration and development. Its integration programs for migrants, that includes access to the labor market, are pace setting in the region. Despite these however, migrants in Switzerland, especially the women, remain to be vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. It is in this light that the Philippines recommends that Switzerland consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families as well as ILO Convention 189.

Finally, Madame President, the Philippines wishes Switzerland well as it continues to enhance its commitment for the protection of human rights.

Thank you Madam President.