

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 UKRAINE
24 October 2012

Madame President, the Philippine delegation welcomes the delegation of ~~Ukraine~~^{Ukraine}, headed by H.E. _____ to the 14th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

Since ^{the} conclusion of the first round of its UPR, the Philippines ^{has} observed that a great number of recommendations were accepted and earnestly implemented by Ukraine. The Philippines also takes note that Ukraine has ratified a number of international and regional human rights conventions. Among these are the Convention on the Rights of All Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expression, and the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking of Human Beings. The Philippines notes further that these conventions now form part of the country's laws in accordance with Ukraine Constitution.

Madame President, the Philippines acknowledges the continuing efforts of Ukraine to address discrimination. The Philippines recommends that Ukraine consider measures for the early passage of the proposed anti-discrimination law now being considered by its parliament. This is a particularly important domestic legislation as it tackles discrimination against women. It is also compliant with the country's obligations under the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Philippine delegation notes the establishment in Ukraine of human rights oversight bodies, particularly the Commission on Prevention of Torture, the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission, and the Children Ombudsman. The Philippine delegation applauds Ukraine for these great strides towards promotion, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of the people of Ukraine.

On the matter of trafficking in persons, Madame President, the Philippines welcomes the enactment of Ukraine's Combatting Trafficking in Persons Act of 2011. The Philippines is especially pleased that under this new law, trafficking victims are given special status which allow them to receive free medical, psychological, and legal assistance, temporary shelter, and financial aid. The Philippines recommends that Ukraine allocates adequate resources to ensure the effective implementation of this protective mantle for trafficked persons.

Madame President, the Philippines joins other nations in marching in step with Ukraine in the journey to achieve the full realization and enjoyment of human rights. Thank you, Madame President.