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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 ZAMBIA
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Mister Vice President, the Philippine delegation welcomes the delegation from Zambia. The Philippine notes the achievements presented on its national report.

The Philippines acknowledges Zambia's efforts to address gender bias and discriminatory practices against women. In particular, my delegation welcomes with the enactment of the Anti-Gender Violence Act. The Philippines recommends that Zambia explore the possibility of utilizing human rights training and programs and other similar efforts to further mainstream the promotion of the rights of women and children.

Mister Vice President, the Philippines appreciates Zambia's candid acknowledgement of the challenges it continues to face in pursuit of social and economic development. We note that despite resource constraints, Zambia continues to improve its legal and institutional frameworks. My delegation is encouraged by this development and on Zambia's strong policy against corruption.

Mister Vice President, the Philippines also welcomes the establishment of a Technical Committee to draft a new Constitution. We trust that Zambia will include the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable sectors of society, in accordance with its international human rights obligations, as it embarks on this historic journey.

Zambia's enactment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act is also noteworthy. Considerable international support is needed to improve Zambia's financial and technical capacity to implement its anti-trafficking law. The Philippines recommends that Zambia continues to enhance its cooperation with development partners in this regard.

Finally, Mister Vice President, the Philippines wishes Zambia well as it works toward the fulfilment and progressive realization of the human rights of its people.

Thank you, Madame President.