

PHILIPPINES

Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Evan P. Garcia
Permanent Representative of the Philippines
to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva

Human Rights Council
15th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

UPR of Barbados
25 January 2013

Mister President, the Philippine welcomes the delegation of the Government of Barbados, headed by SENATOR R. ORLANDO MARVILLE to the 15th session of the Working Group on the UPR.

The Philippines also welcomes Barbados' comprehensive national report, which is a product of a series of consultation among concerned government agencies and other stakeholders, including the non government organizations. The open and transparent process by which Barbados prepared its national report signalled its strong commitment and adherence to the UPR process.

The Philippines notes Barbados' positive attitude towards the elderly. Barbados views its elderly as valuable resource and repositories of tradition, culture, knowledge, and skills. For the Barbados government, the elderly must be accorded full protection and consideration and that the younger generation can benefit from their experience.

The Philippines acknowledges Barbados' recognition of the economic and social value of domestic work and the need to address the exclusion of domestic workers from labor and social protection. My delegation cannot but agree with the assessment of Barbados that "given that most domestic workers are women, the implementation of new standards, policies, and revision of legislation is an important step in advancing gender equality in the world of work and ensuring that women have equal rights and protection under the law".

Mister President, despite this positive outlook of Barbados towards domestic work, it has yet to accede to core conventions relating to migrant workers and domestic work, particularly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (ICRMW) and ILO Convention 189.

Hence, The Philippines recommends that Barbados step up efforts to consider acceding to ICRMW as well as ratifying ILO Convention 189. The Philippines further recommends that Barbados consider instituting more programs to further facilitate access by domestic workers and migrants to basic social services and just conditions of work.

On the matter of trafficking in persons, the Philippines lauds Barbados for its intensified administrative and legislative measures to combat human trafficking. In particular, my delegation takes note of the passage of a domestic legislation, the Transnational Organized Crime Act, criminalizing and penalizing the offense of trafficking in persons and the establishment of the National Task Force for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons chaired by the Attorney General and tasked, among others, to formulate and implement Barbados' national action plan against trafficking in persons.

The Philippines, however, notes that Barbados has signed, but has yet to ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, otherwise known as the Palermo Protocol. Hence, my delegation recommends that Barbados step up efforts to consider ratifying the Palermo Protocol.

Mister President, Barbados, despite its limited resources and capacity constraints, has made considerable progress in the promotion and protection of human rights. The Philippines commends and wishes Barbados well and success in its UPR.

Thank you, Mister President. **END**