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 BURUNDI
24 January 2013

Mister President, the Philippine delegation appreciates Burundi's constructive engagement with the Human Rights Council mechanisms and welcomes its delegation to the 15th session of the Working Group on the UPR.

The Philippine delegation notes Burundi's efforts to improve its legal and institutional human rights framework with the passage of a number of laws, and with the establishment of an Ombudsman and a national human rights institution. The Philippines also notes the revisions in the Criminal Code that provide greater protection for women and children.

The Philippines lauds Burundi's ratification of the Palermo Protocol on trafficking in persons. The Philippines recommends that Burundi also considers acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (ICRMW).

Mister President, The Philippines acknowledges Burundi's efforts to build its capacity and improve the human rights situation in the country despite its limited resources and other significant post-crisis challenges it faces. My delegation particularly acknowledges the crafting of the second phase of Burundi's Strategic Framework for Growth and Poverty Reduction in 2009 and its adoption of a national good governance and anti-corruption strategy in 2011.

Burundi is taking measures to strengthen judicial independence, combat gender-based violence, empower women, improve access to health and education, and develop a national child protection policy. The Philippines encourages Burundi to further intensify efforts to sustain these positive developments.

The Philippines wishes Burundi success in the implementation of its national development programs and its accepted UPR recommendations.

Thank you, Mister President. END