

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 FRANCE
21 January 2013

Mister President, the Philippine delegation welcomes the delegation of France and its comprehensive national report.

My delegation acknowledges the great importance that France continues to attach to the processes to protect human rights, including the UPR, as shown by its submission of mid-term reports and its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons Against Enforced Disappearances.

The Philippines also notes that France has ratified the Palermo Protocol on trafficking in persons and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Mister President, the Philippines is a country of origin of migrant workers. It is in this light that my delegation welcomes France's deep concern for the protection of migrant workers. However, my delegation wishes to see France move a step further in protecting migrant workers' rights. The Philippines echoes the previous separate but similar recommendations of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for France to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (ICRMW).

In the same vein the Philippines also recommends that France consider ratifying ILO Convention 189.

Mister President, the Philippines wishes France well in its efforts to promote and protect human rights, not only as an end by itself, but also as an indispensable component of peace building and reconciliation.

Thank you, Mister President. END