

**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  
**15<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**UPR of MONTENEGRO**

28 January 2013

Mister President, the Philippine delegation appreciates Montenegro's constructive engagement with the Human Rights Council and welcomes its delegation to the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group.

The Philippines recognizes the significant developments that occurred in the domestic legislative framework and institutional human rights infrastructure of Montenegro since its independence in 2006. While noting that Montenegro has acceded to numerous human rights conventions since its last UPR, the Philippines is concerned that Montenegro is yet to accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (ICRMW). The Philippines recommends that Montenegro consider accession to ICRMW in order to prevent discrimination, and to ensure equal access to just conditions of work and basic social services, particularly for migrants in vulnerable situations.

Mister President, Montenegro's efforts to combat human trafficking, in cooperation with international and regional partners, are commendable. The Philippines also acknowledges the various measures that Montenegro has put in place to address domestic violence and promote the rights of women and children. The Philippines encourages Montenegro to intensify efforts in the implementation of the strategies and action plans, such as the Strategy for Protection from Domestic Violence and the National Action Plan for Children.

The Philippines recommends that Montenegro step up efforts to provide equal access to education and health care to all children, irrespective of their immigration status. The Philippines also recommends that Montenegro continue its efforts to further strengthen the capacity of service providers and civil servants working on cases involving children, including through continued human rights education and training.

The Philippines wishes Montenegro success in the implementation of its human rights programs in accordance with its international commitments and obligations. Thank you, Mister President. END