

PHILIPPINES

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

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

UPR of SERBIA
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Mister President, The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Serbia to the 15th session of the UPR Working Group. My delegation appreciates Serbia's constructive engagement with the Human Rights Council and welcomes its comprehensive national report.

The Philippines recognizes Serbia's continuing efforts to strengthen its domestic legislative framework and institutional rights infrastructure to promote and protect human rights. The Philippines recommends that Serbia step up efforts to ensure complementarity and adequate resources for its human rights monitoring and protection infrastructure.

Mister President, my delegation lauds Serbia for its commitment to protect migrant workers' rights. However, the Philippines is concerned that Serbia, despite having signed it in 2004, 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 Serbia consider ratifying the ICRMW not only to ensure access to just conditions of work and basic social service for migrants, especially those in vulnerable situations, but also to prevent discrimination.

My delegation acknowledges with appreciation that Serbia is a state party to at least 69 ILO Conventions, including 8 ILO core conventions. The Philippines further recommends that Serbia accede to the ILO Convention 189.

Mister President, my delegation welcomes Serbia's formulation of its National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking of Human Beings. My delegation commends Serbia for revising its domestic legislative framework to align it with the principles and provisions of the Palermo Protocol on trafficking in persons. The Philippines recommends that Serbia continue its intensified efforts against human trafficking.

In closing, Mr. President, The Philippines wishes Serbia success in the advancement of the human rights of its citizens. Thank you, Mister President. END