

**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 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**  
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Mister President, the Philippine delegation welcomes the delegation of UAE led by H.E. Dr. Mohammad Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. My delegation notes the open and consultative process by which UAE prepared its national report.

The Philippines acknowledges the great importance that UAE attaches to the promotion and protection of human rights. My delegation is pleased about UAE's positive domestic initiatives for the protection of the rights of migrant workers and victims of human trafficking. In particular, the Philippines welcomes the creation of the Human Rights Department at the Ministry of Interior and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, respectively, as well as the establishment of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking.

The Philippines lauds UAE for acceding to the Palermo Protocol on trafficking in persons. The Philippines recommends that UAE step up efforts in amending some provisions of Federal Law 51 of 2006 on combating human trafficking to align it with the Palermo Protocol and to provide better protection for the victims.

Mister President, UAE is host to some 4 million migrant workers. My delegation welcomes UAE's continuing deep concern for the well-being of migrant workers and the protection of their human rights. The Philippines also appreciates UAE's active leadership and engagement with regional consultative processes on labor migration, such as the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and the Colombo Process, towards developing regional standards for decent work especially for migrant workers and female domestic workers.

The Philippines recommends that UAE move a step further by acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (ICRMW) and ILO Convention 189.

In closing, Mister President, the Philippines wishes UAE well in its efforts to promote and protect human rights. Thank you, Mister President. END