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PHILIPPINES

Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Denis Y. Lepatan
Charge d' Affaires, a.i., Permanent Mission 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 BANGLADESH

29 April 2013

Mister President, the Philippines welcomes the delegation of Bangladesh led by HE DIPU MONI, Minister and its national report.

Foreign Affairs

Mister President, the Philippines notes the adoption by Bangladesh of a number of new laws to enhance human rights. Moreover, the Philippines notes Bangladesh's ratification of several international human rights instruments during the review period, including the migrant workers' rights convention.

As a fellow country of origin, the Philippines appreciates Bangladesh migrant rights protection and enhancement programs and policies, most notably are its recently established Expatriates Welfare Bank and its efforts for reducing cost of migration. We value our partnership with Bangladesh in the Colombo Process, the GFMD and other international organizations and forum advancing migrants' rights.

My delegation wishes Bangladesh to consider the following recommendations:

1. Continue its efforts to reduce migration cost and provide greater skills development to aspiring migrant workers, and
2. Withdraw its reservations on Articles 76 and 77 the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.

Thank you, Mister President.