

65

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PHILIPPINES

Statement by
H.E. Mr. 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
16th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

UPR of BURKINA FASO

22 April 2013

Thank you, Mister President. The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Burkina Faso to the 16th session of the Working Group on the UPR and thanks H.E. Julie Prudence Somda-Nigna, Minister for the presentation of their national report.

for Human Rights &
Civil Promotion

The Philippines recognizes the efforts of Burkina Faso to address the challenges in advancing the human rights of its people. We take particular note of the improvement of Burkina Faso's normative and institutional framework, including the ratification of regional and international human rights conventions, anti-corruption measures, and policies to improve the delivery of social services.

The Philippines welcomes Burkina Faso's establishment of the *National Council for the Advancement of Women*. We also note a number of programs aimed at the realization of the rights of women and improving gender equality such as the *Special Job Creation Programme for Young People and Women 2012-2014*. The Philippines **recommends** that Burkina Faso consider intensifying its efforts in the actual implementation of these programs. The Philippines further **recommends** that Burkina Faso continue to work towards the creation of an enabling environment for women and girls and addressing the problem of social exclusion that could hinder the full realization of women's rights.

The Philippines notes Burkina Faso's work to combat child trafficking and child labor. The Philippines **recommends** that Burkina Faso adopt a national legislation on child protection and further strengthen its regional partnerships to complement national efforts to safeguard the rights of the child.

Burkina Faso's commitment to incorporate human rights education into formal primary education, along with other awareness-raising campaigns, is indeed noteworthy, considering its limited resources. The Philippines calls on the international community to assist Burkina Faso in building its capacity to pursue more development programs for its people.

In closing, Mr. President, the Philippines wishes Burkina Faso success in its second periodic review. Thank you, Mister President.