

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 CAPE VERDE
23 April 2013

Mister President, the Philippines welcomes the delegation of Cape Verde and its comprehensive national report.

My delegation acknowledges the great importance that Cape Verde attaches to human rights and its steadfast commitment to implement its National Action Plan to follow up on its UPR.

Mister President, the Philippines is cognizant of Cape Verde's significant resource constraint that hampers implementation of human rights programs.

However, despite these limitations, Cape Verde readily ratified a significant number of international and regional human rights agreements. Among these are the Migrant Workers convention, Convention on the Rights of the Child, and CEDAW. These and the other international conventions that Cape Verde ratified are now part of the domestic law pursuant to Article 12 of its constitution.

Moreover, Mister President, my delegation notes the decline in mortality and chronic malnutrition rate for children under 5 years. In the same light, the Philippines appreciates the great efforts of Cape Verde in ensuring that at least 90 per cent of its children, ages 7 to 17 years, are in school.

Mister President, Philippines recommends that Cape Verde considers the following:

1. Exert efforts to hasten the implementation of the new statute that will ensure the independence and autonomy of the National Commission on Human Rights and Citizenship, in accordance with the Paris Principle; and
2. Continue cooperative engagement with its regional and international partners to ensure adequate resources for implementing policies and programs on human rights.

In closing, Mister President, the Philippines, joins other countries in wishing Cape Verde well as it continues to promote and protect human rights.

Thank you, Mister President. END