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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
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UPR of COLOMBIA

23 April 2013

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

My delegation acknowledges the great importance that Colombia attaches to the protection and promotion of human rights and its steadfast commitment to implement programs to follow up on its UPR.

[The Philippines hails Colombia for the participatory process and constructive dialogue in formulating its human rights policies and in incorporating its human rights commitments and obligations at the national, departmental, and local levels.]

My delegation congratulates Colombia for its successful social programs to reduce incidence of poverty and increase the number of beneficiaries of decent and affordable housing, as well as for the universal coverage at basic and secondary education and for its unified health care system.

The Philippines also welcomes Colombia's determined efforts to include human rights perspective in trade and business. My delegation takes notes of the efforts of the Colombian security forces to adjust its operations to be fully compliant with international standards on human rights.

Mister President, my delegation also notes that Colombia has ratified several core international human rights agreements, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, CEDAW, Convention Against Torture, and Migrant Workers Rights convention.

Mister President, the Philippines recommends that Colombia considers the following:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol on Convention Against Torture;
2. Provide additional resources to its anti-trafficking in persons programs; and
3. Continue its efforts to introduce human rights perspective in business and trade.

Finally, Mister President, the Philippines, joins other states in wishing Colombia well in all its endeavors to pursue human rights, transitional justice, and lasting and durable peace for its people.

Thank you, Mister President. END