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PHILIPPINES

Human Rights Council
17th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

UPR of BELIZE
28 October 2013

Thank you Mister President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Belize and the presentation of its national report. We note that the report was drafted after an extensive consultation among the stakeholders from the government and civil society.

We are pleased that the Belize Constitution includes provisions on the protection of human rights. We laud Belize for its strong commitment to promote, protect and fulfil human rights despite tremendous constraints and challenges.

We understand that Belize is faced with technical and financial constraints that hinder its establishment of a national human rights institution. We **recommend** that Belize steps up efforts in seeking assistance towards the establishment of national human rights institution that is in line with the Paris Principles.

We acknowledge that the rule of law and respect for human rights are deeply ingrained in Belize's long term development plan. We are also encouraged that eradication of poverty is one of the central focus of its medium term development plan. We **recommend** that Belize continue mainstreaming of promotion and protection of human rights in its development plans.

We welcome the enactment of the Education and Training Act of 2010, which prohibits corporal punishment in schools. We urge Belize to consider prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings.

We note the improvement in the birth registration in Belize. We **recommend** that Belize consider further expanding its birth registration program towards achieving universal birth registration coverage.

Thank you Mister President.

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