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PHILIPPINES

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

UPR of SENEGAL
21 October 2013

Mister President, the Philippines is pleased to welcome the delegation of Senegal and the presentation of its national report. My delegation notes that this report is a product of the broad and participatory approach adopted by Senegal. It reflects the consensus between the state and the civil society on the condition of human rights in Senegal.

The Philippines commends Senegal for its continuing concern for the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants. As source, transit, and destination country of migrant workers, my delegation is encouraged that Senegal is a party to the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW).

Mister President, the Philippines lauds Senegal for its determined efforts to combat violence against women, particularly in its relentless campaign for the eradication of female genital mutilation (FGM). We are encouraged that Senegal is gaining headway through its strict enforcement of criminal laws against violence on women and intensified public awareness campaigns. As noted in its national report, out of 5,000 communities that were surveyed, 4,452 communities had already publicly renounced genital mutilation or FGM. The Philippines recommends that Senegal continues its programs aimed at combating violence against women.

The Philippines is concerned that Senegal's Human Rights Commission is not anymore compliant with the Paris Principles. We welcome the efforts of Senegal to ensure the Commission's administrative and budgetary autonomy. We are pleased that these positive actions are led by no less than the Prime Minister.

Mister President, as a fellow developing country, the Philippines understands the significant resource constraints faced by Senegal in promoting and protecting human rights. It is in this regard that the Philippines recommends that Senegal (1) continues its best poverty eradication strategies and (2) step up its efforts in empowering grassroots communities and increase rural infrastructure investments towards improving productivity and poverty reduction.

In closing, Mister President, the Philippines acknowledges the great importance that Senegal continues to attach to the UPR process and commends its achievements in protecting and promoting human rights. Thank you.

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