

Please Check Against Delivery

54

PHILIPPINES

Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Cecilia B. Rebong
Permanent Representative of the Philippines
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

Human Rights Council
19th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

UPR of BHUTAN
30 April 2014

Thank you Mister President. The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Bhutan and the presentation of its second periodic report.

The Philippines acknowledges the assurance of Bhutan to uphold the rule of law, protect and promote human rights, and strengthen democratic institutions. We note the recognition of Bhutan of the support provided by its regional and international partners in ensuring the implementation of accepted recommendations during its first UPR.

We welcome the enactment of Bhutan's law on human trafficking which defines trafficking in persons in line with existing international conventions. My delegation views this development as a building block towards the eventual accession of Bhutan to the Palermo Protocol on trafficking in persons.

We welcome Bhutan's voluntary commitment to address the issue of domestic violence, gender gap in tertiary education, and women's participation in politics.

As a fellow country experiencing continuous threat from the adverse impact of climate change, my delegation urges Bhutan to continue its active engagement with the international community in addressing climate change.

The Philippines submits the following **recommendations** to Bhutan:

1. Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families (ICRMW) and ILO Convention 189;
2. Step up efforts to accede to the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons; and
3. Continue to enhance its engagement with its regional and international partners to facilitate building of capacities in countering domestic and gender-based violence and human trafficking, especially of women and children.

Mister President, my delegation wishes Bhutan well as it implements the recommendations it will receive during the 2nd cycle of the UPR.

Thank you, Mister President. *END*