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 the Democratic Republic of the Congo
29 April 2014

Thank you, Mister President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and thanks it for its national report and its continued engagement with various UN human rights mechanisms.

We welcome the reforms introduced by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in its laws and institutional infrastructure, to advance human rights and try to bring about peace and stability. We applaud the Government for measures taken aimed at progressively realizing its people's rights to education, health, and safe water and sanitation. We recognize that assistance of the international community and various regional partners remain highly valuable in these areas.

We encourage the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to stay focused on its goal of uplifting the living condition of its people, particularly in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable despite difficulties and constraints.

The Philippines **recommends** that the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

1. Continue to prioritize the delivery of basic social services, such as primary education and health, giving particular attention to increasing access, improving infrastructure, and curbing discriminatory practices, including in the rural areas;

2. Provide more resources and intensify implementation of programs that would better ensure protection of women and children from abuse and violence;

3. Enhance engagement with regional and international partners to gather support, as it may deem necessary, for building structural and operational capacities and augmenting existing human rights mechanisms.

In conclusion, we wish the Democratic Republic of the Congo success in its second UPR.

Thank you, Mister President. *END*