

Please Check Against Delivery

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 EQUATORIAL GUINEA
28 April 2014

Thank you, Mister President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Equatorial Guinea and the presentation of its second UPR report.

My delegation notes that Equatorial Guinea faces considerable challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. We are concerned that it is yet to implement a number of recommendations it accepted at its first UPR, including taking further steps towards accession to international human rights instruments, especially CRPD and the Optional Protocols to CEDAW and CRC.

We appreciate the conduct of awareness-raising and training activities on trafficking in persons. We **recommend** that Equatorial Guinea redouble its efforts to further protect children from trafficking. We also **recommend** that it prioritize the promotion of the rights of the child by ensuring that national legislation is in line with its obligations under relevant international human rights instruments, by providing more resources to create and fully implement programs that promote the security and safety of children, such as measures to eradicate corporal punishment and domestic violence, and by improving access to and quality of education and health services.

My delegation encourages Equatorial Guinea to seriously consider the constructive recommendations relevant to the protection of women from discrimination and abuse. We **recommend** that Equatorial Guinea accelerate the process of adopting specific legislation and a national action plan to combat all forms of violence against women, particularly those in vulnerable situations, including migrants, persons with disabilities, and women in detention facilities.

Mr. President, as Equatorial Guinea continues to work for the improvement of the human rights situation in the country, we urge it to intensify its engagement with its regional and international partners to further promote the economic, social and cultural rights of all people in Equatorial Guinea.

Thank you, Mister President. *END*