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52

**Statement delivered by
H.E. Amb. CECILIA B. REBONG**

Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations
and other International Organizations in Geneva

**20th session of the
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Human Rights Council**

**UPR of ITALY
27 October 2014**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Philippines extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Italy to the 20th session of the UPR Working Group. My delegation notes, with appreciation, the report submitted by Italy on the implementation of the recommendations it received during its first review.

The Philippines acknowledges the policies and programs pursued by Italy aimed at improving the conditions of migrants, and their access to the labor market. We commend Italy's continuing humanitarian actions to save migrants crossing the Mediterranean sea and the launching of the 'Mare Nostrum' operations. However, we remain concerned about current domestic regulations on the detention of irregular migrants, including women and children, especially those who have not committed crimes.

Mr. President, we value Italy's commitment to human rights education and training. We encourage Italy to intensify public awareness campaigns to prevent violence against women, which remain a significant concern, and to deal with the problem more comprehensively by identifying and addressing its root causes.

The Philippines **recommends** that Italy continues to review and periodically assess its immigration laws and policies, taking into consideration the recommendations made by relevant UN agencies, human rights treaty bodies and special procedures, to ensure that the rights of migrants are fully safeguarded, in accordance with international human rights standards.

The Philippines also **recommends** that Italy accelerate action on the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Thank you, Mr. President.