

PHILIPPINES

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador CECILIA B. REBONG

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

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Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Human Rights Council**

UPR of GUINEA

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Thank you, Mister President. The Philippines extends a warm greeting to the delegation of Guinea and welcomes the presentation of its second UPR national report.

My delegation congratulates Guinea for the adoption of its new constitution that adheres to the ideals and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to international, regional and sub-regional human rights treaties and conventions. It is noteworthy that Guinea's new constitution allows the incorporation of the international human rights treaties to its domestic legal framework without need of further legislative action. With the view of further building the domestic human rights framework of the country, my delegation **recommends** that Guinea considers taking further steps towards the ratification of international human rights instruments that it is not yet a party to.

Mr. President, my delegation recognizes Guinea's policies to combat traditional practices that are harmful to women and children such as female genital mutilation. We are, however, cognizant of the challenges that Guinea has to surmount in totally eradicating these harmful traditional practices, especially in rural areas. We **recommend** that Guinea consider taking steps towards strict implementation of its laws prohibiting traditional practices harmful to women and children.

The Philippines appreciates Guinea's determination to address recurrent human rights violations, a number of which remain to be fully investigated and prosecuted. My delegation also welcomes Guinea's efforts to strengthen its judicial system and the administration of justice. We **recommend** that Guinea continue its active engagement with its international and regional partners to implement technical cooperation and assistance programs on human rights protection.

In closing, Mister President, my delegation joins other delegations in expressing support to Guinea as it battles the Ebola pandemic seriously threatening the health and life of many of its people. Thank you, Mr. President. END