

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 BISSAU

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Thank you, Mister President. The Philippines extends a warm greeting to the delegation of Guinea Bissau.

My delegation commends the government of Guinea Bissau for introducing reforms to its defense and security sector despite several challenges and constraints. We cannot but agree with Guinea Bissau that reforming its defense and security sector will strengthen of the rule of law and help consolidate peace. We **recommend** that Guinea Bissau continue to engage its international and regional development partners for support in the continued implementation of its defense and security sector reform initiative, and to take initial steps to ensure that law enforcement personnel are provided appropriate human rights education and training.

My delegation is pleased that Guinea Bissau is addressing the need to address the unemployment and underemployment of its youth despite its meager resources. We **recommend** that Guinea Bissau continue to enhance its programs towards employment of its youth in agriculture and fisheries sectors. We further **recommend** that it remains to be active in seeking the continuing support of the international community for the realization of its employment generation and poverty-alleviation programs.

In closing, Mr. President, we call on the international community to extend technical cooperation and other assistance to Guinea Bissau as it perseveres in implementing policies and programs to protect, advance and fulfil the human rights of its people.

Thank you, Mr. President. END.