

**PHILIPPINES**

**Statement by**

**H.E. Amb. 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 KIRIBATI**

**19 January 2015**

Thank you, Mister President.

The Philippines extends a warm greeting to the delegation of Kiribati and appreciates the presentation of its second UPR report.

My delegation commends Kiribati for accepting and implementing the recommendations submitted by the Philippines during the first UPR cycle. We take particular note of progress made by Kiribati in improving its infrastructure for the protection of the rights of women and children, with the introduction of laws, policies and programs aimed at addressing the issue of abuse, neglect and exploitation of children, eliminating sexual and gender-based violence, and criminalizing domestic violence. We also welcome the enactment of the Education Act and would be interested to know if human rights education programs have been introduced in the school curricula.

Kiribati's ratification of the CRPD is a significant step towards further strengthening its human rights framework. We wish Kiribati success in the formulation of a national disability policy consistent with its international commitments or obligations. We also **recommend** that Kiribati consider taking initial steps towards the ratification of other international human rights instruments that it is not yet a party to.

Mr. President, we recognize the constraints faced by Kiribati, both in terms of human and financial capacity, in ensuring the full realization of the socio-economic rights of its people. It is, thus, admirable that Kiribati was able to establish climate change institutions and committees, and to adapt a policy for complying with its obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in spite of its limited internal capacities and resources. The Philippines appreciates Kiribati's continuing partnership and engagement with the Climate Vulnerable Forum. The Philippines **recommends** that Kiribati continue to take into consideration the adverse impacts of climate change to people's access to food and clean water, particularly the most vulnerable sectors of society, and intensify efforts to secure the support and assistance of the international community in pursuing its climate change adaptation and mitigation plans.

Thank you, Mister President.