

Pls. 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

**21st session of the
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Lao People's Democratic Republic
20 January 2015**

Thank you, Mister President. The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Lao People's Democratic Republic headed by HE PHONGSAVATH BOUPHA and the presentation of its second national report.
(MINISTER)

My delegation commends Lao's demonstrated commitment to the enhancement of human rights and the UPR process. Despite limited financial and human resources, the Lao government endeavored to translate its national report and the outcome report of the 1st UPR cycle into Lao language, published and disseminated these reports not only to government officials but also to other stakeholders and to the general public. In addition, the accepted recommendations were reflected and implemented through its National Socio Economic Development Plans and other domestic policies and programs.

My delegation appreciates Lao's being a state party to at least seven (7) core international human rights conventions, including the CEDAW, ICCPR, CRC, and ICESR. As a fellow ASEAN member state, the Philippines is a witness to Lao's active engagement in regional human rights mechanisms, such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the ASEAN Committee on Women, and Lao's contribution to the development of regional human rights instruments such as the ASEAN Anti-Human Trafficking Convention. We **recommend** that Lao considers accelerating its efforts towards its ratification of the migrant workers' rights convention (ICRMW) and of other international human rights instruments that it is not yet a party to.

Mister President, my delegation also recognizes the measures being implemented by the Lao government to combat corruption and its determined efforts to promote transparency and accountability in public affairs. We **recommend** that Lao continue its efforts in implementing its Master Plan on the Development of the Rule of Law.

Thank you, Mister President. END