

PHILIPPINES

**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Cecilia B. Rebong
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in
Geneva**

**UPR of MAURITANIA
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Mister President, the Philippines appreciates the participation of Mauritania in the second UPR cycle.

Mauritania has taken strides to improve the condition of the most vulnerable sectors of its population, including women and children, particularly with respect to the promotion of their health, access to education and employment. Greater political participation of women and the establishment of family dispute units are encouraging developments.

We look forward to hearing more about Mauritania's national child protection strategy, and its anti-slavery and anti- trafficking programs, including the challenges that hinder progress in their implementation.

My delegation recommends that Mauritania:

1. Intensify efforts to combat violence against women, including the elimination of female genital mutilation, by increasing resources for public awareness and educational campaigns, and by encouraging faster legislative action against gender-based violence; and
2. Introduce a human rights-based approach to all climate change-related policies and programs, including in disaster-risk reduction measures.

We wish Mauritania success in its second UPR. Thank you, Mister President.