

**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 SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS  
23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
Human Rights Council  
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Mister President, the Philippines welcomes the delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, headed by HE \_\_\_\_\_, and the presentation of its second report to the UPR Working Group.

The Philippines notes the policies and strategies adopted by St. Kitts and Nevis to fulfill the socio-economic rights of its people despite numerous challenges that it encountered as a result of the global financial crisis. We commend St. Kitts and Nevis for taking affirmative action to address its debt situation. We trust that it will continue to respect the rights of its people as it implements its fiscal reforms.

We encourage St. Kitts and Nevis to consider the need for inclusive consultations, especially with those people living in extreme poverty, in devising poverty reduction policies in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights.

We recognize the significant steps being taken by St. Kitts and Nevis to promote the rights of the child, improve access to education and health, establish legal mechanisms for addressing domestic violence, and enhancing youth awareness on human rights issues.

We regret that some of the accepted recommendations during the first review of St. Kitts and Nevis are yet to be implemented, including the ratification of core international human rights instruments. Support from the international community is essential in this regard.

We **recommend** that St. Kitts and Nevis continue to engage its multilateral, regional, and bilateral partners to strengthen its capacity and resources for the effective implementation of its poverty-alleviation programs and for meeting its international human rights obligations.

The Philippines further **recommends** that St. Kitts and Nevis ensure that its legal and institutional frameworks are in line with international human rights standards.

We wish St. Kitts and Nevis success in the implementation of its accepted UPR recommendations. Thank you, Mister President.