**PHILIPPINES**

**Human Rights Council**

**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**30th Session, 3rd Cycle**

**UPR of CANADA**

Salle XX, *Palais des Nations*, Geneva

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Thank you Mister Vice-President,

The Philippine delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Canada and the presentation of its national report. We also welcome Canada’s various achievements on human rights.

The Philippines lauds Canada’s efforts in promoting the rights of migrants and members of their families regardless of their migration status. We welcome Canada’s willingness to work with countries like the Philippines in promoting decent work and ethical recruitment of migrant workers.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The Philippines appreciates that Canada is a State party to a number of international human rights treaties. Pursuant to its treaty obligations, we expect Canada to uphold the human rights of everyone and not forget those in the fringes of society. We are concerned about persistent reports that Canada’s Indigenous Peoples (IPs) are not able to access justice on an equal footing with the rest of Canada’s population and that Canada’s criminal justice system unnecessarily discriminate IPs. We are equally concerned that indigenous women and girls suffer from layers of discrimination and are victims of violence and abuse.

The Philippines is alarmed that some 235 thousand are reported to be homeless annually in Canada and an average of 35 thousands Canadians are homeless on a given night[[2]](#footnote-2). Homelessness severely impacts the right to health and right to life. Complicating this situation, homeless people are criminalized in most Canadian cities and provinces, for acts of begging and sleeping in pubic places. A country as prosperous as Canada is least expected to have massive homelessness.

The Philippines understands that Canada cares for the environment and places high priority to responsible mining. It is in this light that Canadian companies engaged in mining, oil and gas and other extractive industry are expected to refrain from despoilingwatersheds, ecosystems, agriculture, fisheries and the safety and well-being of the affected local communities, especially indigenous peoples. These Canadian companies are also expected be held accountable for the negative human rights impact of their operations abroad. Canada should not have allowed the dumping of its waste to another country.

Finally, we note with concern that solitary confinement is still being practiced in Canada. Many studies have showed that prolonged solitary confinement can lead to a range of health problems. This harmful practice had been long abandoned in the Philippines.

In is in this light that the the Philippines submits the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that Canada’s Indigenous Peoples are able to access justice on an equal footing with the rest of Canada’s population;
2. Step up efforts to protect indigenous women and girls from all forms of discrimination, violence, and abuse;
3. Take urgent steps to address homelessness and adopt legislation that fully recognizes the right to housing and provide for effective remedies for violations of the right;
4. Ensure that Canadian mining, oil and gas companies are held accountable for the negative human rights impact of their operations abroad;
5. Halt the practice of solitary confinement of prisoner; and
6. Ratify the ICRMW.

We wish Canada success in the continued implementation of its accepted recommendations.

Thank you Mister Vice-President. **END**

1. Canada and Philippines teamed up to pilot test the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) developed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). IRIS is a social compliance scheme that is designed to promote ethical international recruitment.  It is comprised of an international standard, a voluntary certification scheme for labor recruiters and a compliance and monitoring mechanism [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Stephen Gaetz, Erin Dej, Tim Richter, & Melanie Redman, The State of Homelessness in Canada 2016. available in <http://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/SOHC16_final_20Oct2016.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)