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PHILIPPINES

Intervention by
H.E. (Mrs.) Cecilia B. Rebong
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Philippines
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

27th session of the Human Rights Council
Agenda Item 2+10: Oral Update on Sri Lanka
24 September 2014

[Thank you Mister President. The Philippines notes that this oral update was being made pursuant to of the OHCHR on Sri Lanka was made pursuant Resolution 25/1 adopted by a divided Council (voting 23 in favor, 12 against, and 12 abstained, including the Philippines).]

My delegation acknowledges Sri Lanka's proactive engagement with the Human Rights Council mechanisms including despite its rejection of resolution 25/1. The Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants visited Sri Lanka in May this year while the Special Rapporteur on education has yet to respond to invitation extended to him to visit Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is also proactively engaging with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) and Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), the most recent of which was on 16 September.

(The ^{we} Philippines) welcomes Sri Lanka's continued regular and voluntary updates and briefing that are given to members of the Human Rights Council as well as to the Missions based in Geneva, on the progress in the reconciliation process:

[We likewise welcome the continued participation of Sri Lanka on the UPR mechanism. Like Sri Lanka, my country strongly adheres to the idea that the UPR mechanism is most appropriate platform to address human rights situations of all countries in a uniform, objective and constructive spirit.]

Mr. President, while Sri Lanka has shied away from the technical assistance offered by the OHCHR, it is nevertheless actively engaged with the other UN agencies and international partners. ^{For example,} Sri Lanka is supportive of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017 that provides strategic directions to implement UN supported projects in line with policy framework of the country, including human rights. [Sri Lanka is also engaged with UN OCHA to identify the specific needs of those who have returned or resettled and to reconcile discrepancies in relation to the number of remaining IDPs to be resettled in the country.]

(Finally Mister President, my ^{we} delegation) acknowledges the continued implementation of the recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) and National Plan of Action. We are however concern^{ed} about the persistent allegations of apparent slow pace of implementation of the national reconciliation process. While my delegation understands the challenges and difficulties of pursuing reconciliation and progress after having experienced a long war, it is nevertheless an imperative for the Sri Lanka to address such lingering concern.

Thank you Mister President. END