

**CLOSING REMARKS OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION**  
**The Hon. Enrique A. Manalo, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs**  
**United Nations Human Rights Council**  
**Universal Periodic Review**  
**United Nations, Geneva, 15 April 2008**

Mr. President.  
Excellencies.  
Distinguished Delegates.  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of the Philippines, I am profoundly honored to thank you for your support, cooperation and valuable contributions in the course of the Universal Periodic Review session on the Philippines.

In particular, Mr. President, allow me to express our profound appreciation for your able stewardship of our session, and to the members of our UPR Troika -- Germany, Malaysia and Mali -- our deepest thanks for your kind and unstinting assistance in ensuring a smooth flow of communication and interaction.

Special thanks are also due to our hardworking Secretariat. Their conscientious and skilled work were essential for the success of our UPR dialogue.

The Philippine Delegation was led last week by no less than the Executive Secretary to the President, the Hon. Eduardo S. Ermita, who headed a multi-agency delegation of senior officials from the Philippine Government. We were also accompanied by the Chair and officers of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines.

I wish to recall, in addition, that the Philippine Government had fully engaged civil society and domestic human rights organizations in consultations that were held in drafting its UPR report. This engagement will continue as we move forward with any follow up to our UPR discussions.

The high level and broad composition of the Philippine delegation, as well as the careful preparations for the Philippine UPR report, speak of the seriousness the Philippines attaches to human rights and to the UPR process in promoting and protecting human rights for all people worldwide.

We are deeply gratified that the report, presentation and answers the Philippine provided during its UPR session were well received. We are pleased that they were taken as clear manifestations that the Philippines is a human rights advocate and defender.

In this context, allow me to reiterate that the Philippines, which was closely involved in negotiations that shaped and launched both the Council and the UPR, remains strongly supportive of the UPR mechanism. We remain convinced that the UPR can deepen global understanding and appreciation of human rights, enhance human rights in all countries, and energize human rights cooperation as a major global agenda item for the international community.

The Philippines has noted, with appreciation, the comments, observations and recommendations made in the course of its UPR session in the spirit of dialogue and joint endeavor. In closing, the Philippines reiterates the following voluntary commitments:

- to continue to develop a gender-responsive approach to issues on women and children, including in the judicial system, and on violence against women and children;
- to continue to develop domestic legislation for further protection of the rights of the child;
- to maintain the momentum on addressing killings of activists and media; and
- to continue and to find additional measures to meet the basic needs of the poor and other vulnerable sectors.

We look forward to continuing our close cooperation with all the members of the Council to realize our shared objective of attaining greater global justice, equity, security and development through the enhancement of human rights.

Thank you.**END**