

Response of the Government of the Philippines
to the recommendations made by various country delegations during the
interactive dialogue of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group
held on 11 April 2008

1. Pursuant to paragraph 59 in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group report of the Philippines, the Government of the Philippines submits the following responses to the various recommendations made by delegations during the interactive dialogue that took place on 11 April 2008 in the UPR Working Group.
2. The following recommendations made by country delegations cited in paragraph 58 of the UPR Working Group report enjoy the support of the Government of the Philippines:
 - To continue to develop a gender-responsive approach to issues of violence against women and continue to build supportive environment for women and children within the judicial system; this environment should take into account the special needs for rehabilitation and post-conflict care of women and children in vulnerable situations and conflict areas (New Zealand);
 - To ensure that members of security forces are trained on human rights and on their responsibility to protect human rights and human rights defenders (Canada);
 - To sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Slovenia, Mexico, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands);
 - To report regularly to the Committee against Torture (Slovenia);
 - To completely eliminate torture and extrajudicial killings (Holy See);
 - To intensify its efforts to carry out investigations and prosecutions on extrajudicial killings and punish those responsible (Switzerland);
 - To address legislative gaps in the field of children's rights in order to fully comply with the 2005 recommendations on the Committee of the Rights of the Child (Italy);
 - To share with other countries its experience in the area of justiciability of economic and social rights (Sudan);
 - While noting the involvement of civil society in the preparatory process of the national report, to fully involve civil society in the follow-up to the review (United Kingdom);

- To continue its successful policy in combating trafficking in human beings at the national level and to play a leading role at the international level on this matter (Belarus);
 - To step up efforts to meet the basic needs of the poor and other vulnerable groups (Nigeria).
3. The following recommendations made by country delegations cited in paragraph 58 of the UPR Working Group report have been noted by the Government of the Philippines and will be the subject of further study:
- To sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Slovenia, Mexico);
 - To protect children in the womb, notwithstanding undue pressure from certain groups (Holy See);
 - That the second National Human Rights Action Plan should take into account the recommendations formulated by treaty bodies and special procedures (Mexico);
 - That national legislation and customs and practices should be further harmonized with the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Mexico).
4. With regard to recommendation no. 8 in paragraph 58 of the UPR Working Group report, the Government of the Philippines is of the view that this recommendation is already covered by the voluntary commitments which it announced at the conclusion of the UPR interactive dialogue held on 11 April 2008 and which are reflected in paragraph 60 of the UPR Working Group report.
5. Recommendation no. 3, the recommendation of the Netherlands in no. 6, and recommendation nos. 11 and 15, cited in paragraph 58 of the UPR Working Group report, do not enjoy the support of the Government of the Philippines.