HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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31 August 2012

Excellency,

I write to inform you that in the course of its 81<sup>st</sup> session, the Committee further considered the situation of the Subanon of Mount Canatuan, which has been under consideration by the Committee since 2007 under its early warning and urgent action procedure.

The Committee recalls its recommendation to the State party (CERD/C/PHL/CO/20 of September 2009), particularly paragraph 25 which urged the State party to consult with all concerned parties in order to address the issues regarding Mount Canatuan in a manner that respects customary laws and practices of the Subanon people and invited you to provide information in relation to further developments. In a letter dated on 27 August 2010, the Committee further expressed its ongoing concern that mining activities continued to be carried out without the consultation of the Subanon people, resulting in the destruction of their sacred site.

The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation and requests further information on: concrete measures taken to ensure that sacred character of Mount Canatuan is respected; and, appropriate consultation conducted with the Subanon people and culturally appropriate reparation provided to them.

In accordance with article 9(1) of the Convention and article 63 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee urges the State party to submit its combined 21st and 22nd periodic report, which was due on 4 January 2012, and include up to date information on this issue.

His Excellency Mr. Evan P. Garcia Permanent Representative of Philippines to the United Nations Office and other International organizations at Geneva Fax: +41 22 716 19 32 Allow me, Excellency, to express the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Philippines, with a view to provide it with assistance in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Alexei Avtonomov Chair

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Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination