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PHILIPPINES

Human Rights Council
17th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

UPR of CONGO
30 October 2013

Thank you Mister President. The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Congo and the presentation of its national report. We also welcome Congo's strong commitment to the UPR process as a mechanism to advance and protect human rights.

We are pleased that Congo made significant progress in terms of ratification of international human rights conventions, most notably Congo's accession to the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Palermo Protocol on trafficking in persons. The Philippines **recommends** that Congo step up efforts to align its domestic legal framework with international and regional human rights conventions to which it is a party.

We welcome the efforts of Congo to strengthen its National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), which just achieved B status in 2010. We **recommend** that Congo continue to strengthen its NHRC to make it compliant with the Paris Principles.

The Philippines acknowledges the efforts of Congo to empower its women despite challenging economic and cultural contexts. We welcome the development of a national gender policy and its long term plan of action. We **recommend** that Congo allocate an adequate budget to fully implement its plan of action.

In closing, Mister President, the Philippines wishes Congo well as it implements its programs and policies to promote, protect and fulfil human rights. Thank you. *END*