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PHILIPPINES

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

UPR of MEXICO
23 October 2013

Thank you Mister President.

The Philippines welcomes the Mexican delegation to the second cycle of the UPR process. We also welcome the presentation of its national report. We note that the report that was just presented by HE _____ was drafted through a transparent, inclusive, and participatory manner that involved stakeholders from the government and civil society.

The Philippines is pleased to learn that Mexico adopted several amendments to its constitution that pertains to the promotion and protection of human rights. We are encouraged that human rights concepts and principles are now fully integrated in the Mexican Constitution. We note that human rights promotion and protection as enshrined in treaties to which Mexico is a party are now conferred with constitutional status. The Philippines **recommends** that Mexico considers fully utilizing these constitutional amendments to prevent and investigate human rights violations, punish human rights violators, and provide effective redress and remedy to human rights victims.

Mister President, the Philippines values its long-standing partnership with Mexico in pursuing various initiatives to advance the rights of migrants. We are glad about Mexico's commitment for the protection of human rights of migrants. We note with appreciation Mexico's enactment in 2011 of the Migration Act. Under this law, undocumented migration is decriminalized. This law also provides for guarantees for migrant's access to justice, education, health and other social services, regardless of their migration status.

The Philippines also welcomes Mexico's commitment to the protection of rights of women and girls, especially its efforts to combat violence against women. We are encouraged to learn that all Mexican states have laws penalizing violence against women. We note the enactment of gender equality laws in 30 of the 32 Mexican states. These are highly significant positive developments in the light of the declaration in the Mexican national report of the high percentage (47%) of partner violence among Mexican women 15 years old and above. The Philippines **recommends** that Mexico considers intensifying the implementation of its programs and policies aimed at combating violence against women.

In closing, Mister President, the Philippines lauds the strong commitment of Mexico to promote, protect and fulfil human rights. Thank you.

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