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*Please Check Against Delivery***PHILIPPINES**

Human Rights Council  
17<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

UPR of NIGERIA  
22 October 2013

Mister President, the Philippines is pleased to welcome the delegation of Nigeria led by HE MR. MOHAMMED BELLO ADOKE, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION & MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF NIGERIA.

[We have listened to the presentation of its national report. We note that it is a product of a broad and participatory process and reflects the state of human rights in Nigeria.]

The Philippines commends Nigeria for its positive actions in the promotion and protection of human rights. My delegation is pleased to note that its National Human Rights Commission Act has been amended to allow financial and operational independence as well as enhancement of the Commission's investigative and enforcement powers. This positive development bodes well for the promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria.

My delegation also welcomes Nigeria's accession to and ratification of several international and regional human <sup>rights</sup> instruments. It is noteworthy that since its last UPR review in 2009, Nigeria has ratified the CPED, CRPD, and ICRMW and the Optional Protocols of the CRC and CAT. We appreciate Nigeria's continuing commitment to work towards ratifying other international human rights convention to which it is not yet a party. The Philippines **recommends** that Nigeria build on this commitment and step up its efforts in pursuing ratification of more international human rights conventions.

The Philippines lauds Nigeria for placing high on its public policies the protection of rights of women and girls, especially from harmful traditional practices. We are encouraged to learn that Nigerian courts, on several occasions, have declared null and void customs and traditions that allowed violence and discrimination against women. The Philippines **recommends** that Nigeria continue to improve its public policies aimed at combating violence against women.

In closing, Mister President, the Philippines joins other members of this Council in acknowledging the great importance that Nigeria attaches to its commitment to promote, protect and fulfil human rights. We wish Nigeria well in the implementation of its accepted recommendations in this UPR cycle. Thank you.

**END**