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Statement by
H.E. Ambassador Cecilia B. Rebong
Permanent Representative of the Philippines
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

Human Rights Council
18th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

UPR of Afghanistan
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Thank you Mister President. The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan and the presentation of its national report. The Philippines notes the involvement of various Afghan government agencies and non government organizations in the preparation of its national report.

The Philippines ^{notes} (also welcomes) Afghanistan's significant strides towards the promotion and upholding of human rights in its society and its ratification of a number of international human rights agreements during the reporting period.

My delegation appreciates Afghanistan's recognition of human rights as a key factor and requisite for the success of its national development strategy and national priority programs.

The Philippines understands that Afghanistan, a country in transition, is still faced with serious institutional, resources, and manpower challenges to promote and protect human rights. The Philippines **recommends** that Afghanistan continues its constructive engagement with its regional and international partners to meet the challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Mister President, my delegation welcomes the adoption of the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) law and formulation of the National Working Plan for Afghan Women (NAPW). The Philippines **recommends** that Afghanistan steps up its efforts to effectively implement the EVAW law and the programs outlined in the NAPW.

Finally, Mister President, the Philippines wishes Afghanistan well as it pursues its commitments to promote and defend the human rights of its people. Thank you. END.