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## **PHILIPPINES**

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  
**18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**UPR of CYPRUS**  
04 February 2014

Thank you Mister President. The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Cyprus to the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. We also welcome the presentation of its national report.

My delegation acknowledges that despite the difficult economic situation that Cyprus is facing, it continues to be committed to safeguarding the human rights of its people and to complying with its obligations in all international human rights treaties to which it is a party. We also note Cyprus' laudable efforts to implement the recommendations it has accepted in the first UPR cycle

The Philippines recognizes the positive steps undertaken by Cyprus to include irregular migrants and their children to the category of vulnerable groups that may access its public health care facilities. We are also encouraged by Cyprus' measures making it possible for children of irregular migrants to access public school education.

My delegation wishes to **recommend** the following for consideration of Cyprus:

1. Provide adequate resources to fully implement its national plan against human trafficking, taking particular attention to curbing trafficking of women and girls;
2. Step up efforts to protect the rights of migrants;
3. Adopt measures that will enable migrants and their children, including irregular migrants, to access other social services; and
4. Implement measures to combat racial stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes against migrants, including through awareness-raising campaigns and by enforcement of legislation against racial discrimination in all fields of public life.

Finally, Mister President, my delegation joins other delegations in wishing Cyprus well as it embarks on another period of implementation of its accepted recommendation in this UPR cycle. Thank you Mister President. END