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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 the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**  
05 February 2014

Thank you Mister President. At the outset, my delegation would like to welcome the distinguished delegation of the Dominican Republic and thank it for the presentation of its second periodic report to the Human Rights Council.

The Philippines takes this opportunity to congratulate the Dominican Republic for its achievements relative to its accepted recommendations during its first UPR. We acknowledge the progress made by the Government of the Dominican Republic in introducing a number of legislative and institutional changes with the intention of improving the human rights situation in the country. Of significant importance are the programs introduced by the Government to realize the rights of children, women and persons with disabilities.

Mister President, my delegation notes that the issuance of Decree No. 631-2011 is a positive step towards consolidating the country's policies and procedures for managing migration. The establishment of the National Council for Migration could greatly contribute to the implementation of measures that promote the rights of migrants. We encourage the Dominican Republic to periodically review and enhance programs that would provide migrants with better access to health, education and other social services, and with better protection of their labor rights.

The Philippines recognizes the actions taken by the Dominican Republic to combat trafficking in persons. We note, however, that more needs to be done in this regard. We trust that the Dominican Republic will continue to cooperate with its international partners to ensure that traffickers are prosecuted or punished and appropriate remedies are made available to trafficking victims.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my delegation recommends that the Dominican Republic:

1. Continue to give priority to the fulfilment of the basic rights of its citizens, particularly to food and to an adequate standard of living, by intensifying the implementation of comprehensive poverty-alleviation programs; and
2. Continue to promote the social and human development of the Dominican population by devising public policies and taking affirmative actions aimed at eliminating remaining social inequalities.

Thank you Mister President. END