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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 former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**  
30 January 2014

Thank you Mister President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group. We thank the delegation for the presentation of the country's second periodic report.

The Philippines notes the considerable progress made by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people. We laud, in particular, the continuing efforts made by the Government to harmonize national legal and institutional framework with international human rights instruments. We recognize the achievements made by Macedonia in introducing reforms to strengthen the independence and efficiency of its judicial system. There is also remarkable advances in addressing the issue of discrimination and gender inequality.

[It is of significant importance to us to learn that efforts are being undertaken by the Macedonian Government to consider the compatibility of its national legislation on migrants with the provisions of the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers.]

The Philippines would like to submit the following recommendations for the consideration of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

1. Step up measures to safeguard the rights of the child, including by preventing discrimination against children of disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, and by stronger implementation of child labor laws and the revised 2012-2015 Action Plan on Children's rights;
2. Continue to improve the condition of all migrants, particularly with regard to access to health, education and other social services, and accelerate efforts towards accession to the ICRMW.
3. Intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons while ensuring that appropriate access to remedy are provided to trafficking victims.

Thank you, Mister President. END