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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 SLOVAKIA
03 February 2014

Thank you Mister President. The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Slovakia and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

My delegation notes that Slovakia signed and ratified several UN and Council of Europe human rights instruments during the period under review. We also acknowledge the actions of Slovakia to implement the recommendations it has accepted in the first UPR cycle.

The Philippines recognizes the positive steps undertaken by Slovakia to combat discrimination, racism, and racially motivated crimes. We are particularly encouraged by Slovakia's efforts to fight incitement to discrimination and racial violence against migrants. We **recommend** that Slovakia take a step further in the area of migrants' rights protection and consider ratifying the ICRMW and ILO Convention 189.

My delegation lauds Slovakia for strengthening its institutional and normative framework to protect women and children from violence and abuse. We note in particular Slovakia's law that allows compensation to victims of violent crimes, including the crime of rape, sexual violence and abuse.

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

1. Take further steps to ensure that its national human rights institution is aligned with the Paris Principles;
2. Provide adequate resources to fully implement its National Program to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, taking particular attention to combating trafficking of children; and
3. Develop additional programs, including a national action plan for children, to enhance the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children.

Thank you Mister President. END