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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
18th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

UPR of URUGUAY
29 January 2014

Thank you Mister President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Uruguay to the 2nd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. We also welcome the presentation of its national report. We note that Uruguay's national report was a product of an inclusive and transparent process involving various government agencies and the civil society. My delegation acknowledges the voluntary commitments included in the national report of Uruguay

The Philippines welcomes the positive developments in Uruguay on the area of women's rights, particularly the marked increase in women participation in public policy making, the establishment of special courts for domestic violence cases, and the repeal of the law that extinguishes the offence of rape and indecent assault when the perpetrator marries the victim. We **recommend** that Uruguay continue developing policies and programs to enhance protection and advancement of women's rights.

The Philippines is encouraged by the efforts of Uruguay to combat trafficking in persons. We take particular note of the Uruguay's programs to increase the capacity of front line public service personnel to provide assistance to the trafficking victims, including the development of guidelines for its consular officers. We **recommend** that Uruguay considers stepping up measures to address trafficking vulnerabilities of women and children.

Finally, Mister President, we join other members of the Human Rights Council in wishing Uruguay well on its continuing efforts to advance, protect and fulfill human rights of its people.

Thank you Mister President. END