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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 VIETNAM
05 February 2014

The Philippines welcomes the high level delegation of Vietnam led by H.E. Foreign Affairs Deputy Minister Ha Kim Ngoc. We also welcome the presentation of Vietnam's national report. We acknowledge Vietnam's implementation of the recommendations it has accepted during the 1st UPR cycle.

The Philippines recognizes progress made by Vietnam in terms of ratification and accession to international human rights treaties during the review period. We note Vietnam's ratification of several human rights conventions, including the Convention on Transnational Organized Crimes and the Palermo Protocol on human trafficking.

We appreciate Vietnam's active engagement in regional human rights bodies such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). We are encouraged by Vietnam's efforts to review its domestic legislations and policies with the view to enhance migrants' rights protection.

My delegation notes that the promotion and protection of human rights is an essential component in all of Vietnam's socio-economic strategies. We are encouraged that the promotion human rights is central to the amendments to the Vietnamese Constitution, dedicating a whole chapter to cover human rights and citizen's obligations.

My delegation wishes to **recommend** to Vietnam to step its up efforts to review its domestic legislations and policies with the view to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. *ICRMW*

We also wish to **recommend** to Vietnam to continue to be actively engaged in regional human rights bodies particularly those concerning the promotion and protection of the rights of women and on combatting trafficking in persons.

Finally, Mister President, as fellow ASEAN member state, the Philippines is confident that Vietnam will continue to advance and protect human rights. Thank you Mister President. END