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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  
**19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**UPR of Albania**  
28 April 2014

Thank you Mister President.

At the outset, please allow me to welcome the delegation of Albania and to thank them for the presentation of their national report.

The Philippine delegation appreciates the information provided by the Government of Albania about the implementation of its accepted recommendations from its first UPR.

My delegation notes, in particular, the improvements in Albania's normative and institutional framework, such as accession to several regional and international conventions, enactment of laws on discrimination and protection of children's rights, and amendments to its Penal Code.

We welcome the efforts taken by Albania to institute measures to address domestic violence and human trafficking as well as the action plans to improve access to education, health services and protection for persons with disabilities. We recognize that these are important steps towards the fulfillment of the basic human rights and improvement of the standards of living of the people in Albania.

The Philippine delegation understands that a number of challenges remain despite these recent achievements, and that much more needs to be done. We urge Albania to remain resolute in its commitment to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly of the most vulnerable groups.

The Philippines submits the following two recommendations for Albania's consideration:

1. To ensure effective implementation of the measures or strategies established to counter and prevent trafficking in persons, including by intensifying efforts to prosecute perpetrators and providing adequate protection to trafficking victims, especially children;
2. To continue to enhance programs to protect children from all forms of violence or abuse.

Thank you, Mr. President.