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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

19th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

UPR of BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

02 May 2014

Thank you, Mister President. The Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of Brunei Darussalam led by H.E. Pehon Dato Lim Jock Seng.

The Philippines notes the inclusive and participatory process in the preparation of Brunei Darussalam's national report. We welcome its inter-agency consultative mechanism and the strengthening of its institutional and normative framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.

The Philippines congratulates Brunei Darussalam for advancing the rights and welfare of women, children, and girls. We note with appreciation the following: (1) Education for All Program, (2) the inclusion of women in Brunei's Legislative Council, (3) the strengthening of its laws and victims assistance program relating to trafficking in persons, and (4) the withdrawal of reservations on some paragraphs of the CRC, and the significant steps it has taken which would enable it to ratify the Optional Protocol on the Convention of the Rights of the Child. It is along this vein that my delegation **recommends** that Brunei ^{Darussalam} continue its efforts in safeguarding the rights of women and children, particularly in combating trafficking in persons. We also **recommend** that Brunei consider stepping up its efforts toward ratification of the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

Mister President, my delegation commends the active participation of Brunei Darussalam in the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and in the ASEAN Committee on Migrant Workers. It is heartwarming to note that Brunei's labor and social laws guarantee all migrants, including migrant workers, certain basic rights, such as fair and decent wage and compulsory insurance. It is in this light that my delegation **recommends** that it consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) and ILO Convention 189.

Mister President, the Philippines joins other delegations in wishing Brunei Darussalam success in the implementation of its programs and policies to promote, protect, and fulfill human rights for all.

Thank you, Mister President. **END**