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

**UPR of COSTA RICA**  
05 May 2014

Thank you, Mister President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Costa Rica and the presentation of its comprehensive national report.

My delegation recognizes the efforts of Costa Rica to implement the recommendations it received in its first UPR. We congratulate Costa Rica, in particular, for 1) the establishment of the Inter-Institutional Commission on Follow-up to and Compliance with International Human Rights Obligations; 2) the adoption of the Act on Trafficking, and related activities; 3) the Establishment of the National Coalition against Illicit Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons; and 4) the amendments to its Violence Against Women Act, to criminalize abuse and assault.

The Philippines also acknowledges the significant progress made by Costa Rica in dealing with migration issues under a human rights perspective, with the enactment of the Migration and Aliens Act.

We wish to submit the following recommendations to Costa Rica:

1. Continue its programs aimed at poverty alleviation; and
2. Consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and ILO Convention 189.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we are confident that Costa Rica will remain actively engaged in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Thank you, Mister President. **END**