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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 ETHIOPIA**

6 May 2014

Thank you, Mister President. The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Ethiopia and the presentation of its second UPR report.

My delegation is encouraged by the actions taken by Ethiopia to promote women's rights and address violence against women and girls. The Philippines notes in particular (1) the national strategy to eradicate female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices, (2) the setting of 18 years as minimum age for marriage, regardless of whether the marriage is voluntary, forced, or arranged, in order to curb early and child marriage, and (3) the establishment of the National Council to Combat Trafficking in Persons headed by the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Philippines also welcomes the work done by Ethiopia for the promotion and protection of the rights of migrant workers and its plan to ratify the ICRMW, enter into bilateral labor agreement, and deploy labor attaches to its embassies abroad. Ethiopia, along with several other countries, is a partner of the Philippines in developing a set of voluntary guidelines and compilation of good practices to respond to protection needs of migrants caught in crisis situations.

We wish to recommend to Ethiopia the following:

1. Ensure allocation of adequate resources for the effective implementation of the policies and programs against violence against women and trafficking in persons;
2. Step up efforts to ratify the ICRMW; and
3. Considering ratifying ILO Convention 189.

Thank you, Mister President. *END*