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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 Nicaragua**  
7 May 2014

Thank you, Mister President. The Philippines extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Nicaragua to this UPR session.

We commend Nicaragua for recent improvements in its legislative and normative framework to advance human rights, and for its accession to ILO Convention 189. We encourage Nicaragua to take further steps to align domestic laws with international standards.

We note, with appreciation, the adoption of laws to strengthen the legal framework for countering trafficking in persons. We **recommend** that Nicaragua ensure that appropriate resources are provided for the full implementation of laws and programs to combat trafficking of women and children.

We also appreciate the introduction of policies and measures in the areas of education, health and social security. We laud Nicaragua's efforts to improve access to food and to address extreme poverty and unemployment. We **recommend** that Nicaragua continue to intensify government action in providing better infrastructure for education.

We welcome Nicaragua's action aiming at guaranteeing human rights against the impacts of climate change. We **recommend** that Nicaragua remain engaged with the international community in encouraging collective action on this issue.

To conclude, we wish Nicaragua continued success in meeting its development goals and in addressing challenges related to the fulfilment of human rights.

Thank you, Mister President. *END*