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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 Norway**  
28 April 2014

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

The Philippines notes the efforts of Norway to harmonize the provisions of its Constitution with its international human rights obligations. We acknowledge Norway's plans to strengthen its legal and institutional framework to address remaining challenges, such as domestic violence and trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

We commend Norway for its numerous achievements and its commitment to help improve international human rights standards. We believe that Norway has much to share in terms of best practices in ensuring the protection of human rights in business and in promoting rights-based social and economic development.

My delegation regrets, however, that Norway is still unable to accede to the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families (ICRMW) despite its steadfast advocacy <sup>for</sup> of equality and non-discrimination.

It is against this backdrop that the Philippines **recommends** that Norway consider the following:

1. Revisit existing legislation and programs with the aim to enhance social protection for all migrants, reduce xenophobia, and improve public perception of migrants;
2. Intensify efforts in implementing its national preventive strategy against gender-based violence;
3. Enhance engagement with regional and inter-regional partners to help build capacities in countering trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

Mister President, as a valued partner of my country in the promotion of peace, democracy, and the rule of law, my delegation wishes Norway well as it continues to lead in the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of human rights.

Thank you, Mister President. *END*