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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 Portugal
30 April 2014

Thank you, Mister President. The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Portugal and the presentation of its national report. My delegation appreciates the inter-agency and inclusive process by which its national report was prepared.

My delegation is pleased that Portugal has approved a number of comprehensive human rights policy instruments especially those addressing the needs of the most vulnerable despite economic difficulties and resource constraints.

We note in particular the approval of its national plans against trafficking of human beings and against domestic/gender based violence as well as on elimination of female genital mutilation. We also note its national action plans for integration of immigrants and of the Roma communities.

We are encouraged by Portugal's active engagement with various UN human rights mechanisms and its submission of timely reports to the UN treaty bodies. We congratulate Portugal for the establishment in April 2010 of the Portuguese National Human Rights Committee.

We urge Portugal to maintain the course in promoting and protecting the human rights not only of its people and but also of the migrants.

It is in this light that the Philippines **recommends** the following:

1. Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families and ILO Convention 189;
2. Ensure that adequate resources are allocated for the effective implementation of its comprehensive national human rights action plans; and
3. Continue to enhance engagement with its regional and international partners to strengthen its capacity for the protection and promotion of human rights.

In conclusion, Mister President, my delegation wishes the Portugal success in its second UPR.

Thank you, Mister President. *END*