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Statement delivered by
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Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations
and other International Organizations in Geneva

20th session of the
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Human Rights Council

UPR of EL SALVADOR
27 October 2014

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of El Salvador and appreciates its engagement with the UPR mechanism. My delegation thanks El Salvador for the presentation of its report on developments and advancements in its national human rights situation since its first UPR.

Mr. President, the legal and institutional changes recently introduced by El Salvador are noteworthy. Cooperation with international partners to enhance human rights education and training of law enforcers can indeed be very valuable in improving the system. We encourage El Salvador to continue aligning its domestic legislation with international human rights laws.

We appreciate efforts made by El Salvador to realize the socio-economic rights of its people. It is important that measures to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable sectors such as women, children, indigenous peoples, and migrants, are sustained and provided ample resources. We understand that much more needs to be done and that a number of challenges remain in these areas.

We are pleased to hear about the Special Prosecutor's Unit for People Smuggling and Trafficking and the establishment of the "Missing Angel" (Ángel Desaparecido) alert system. We would appreciate if the El Salvadorian delegation can share with us how this system has been effective in complementing other Government efforts aimed at reducing the incidence of trafficking of children.

The Philippines **recommends** that El Salvador speed up the process of establishing a special law on trafficking in persons. We look forward to the creation of an inter-institutional coordination mechanism to ensure effective access to justice and the restoration of trafficked victims' rights. We further **recommend** that El Salvador secure the cooperation and full involvement of local government units and civil society partners in the implementation of anti-trafficking laws and programs. Thank you, Mr. President.