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Statement by
H.E. Amb. Cecilia B. Rebong
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 GAMBIA
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Thank you, Mr. President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Gambia and the presentation of its second periodic report. We appreciate the progress made by Gambia in the implementation of the recommendations it received at its first UPR. Gambia's success in the promotion of equitable access to education is commendable.

My delegation acknowledges the considerable efforts have been exerted by the Gambian Government in the last four years to improve its legislative human rights framework and welfare services for vulnerable persons.

We note the enhancement of the protection mantle for children with Gambia's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the alignment of domestic laws. We also note the challenges being faced by Gambia in providing sufficient human and material resources to effectively deliver its anti-trafficking programs. We **recommend** that Gambia explore and maximize the benefits from international cooperation and partnerships to support initiatives to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

We acknowledge Gambia's commitment to reduce poverty, and are pleased to note that policies and measures to accelerate growth and employment are considered a priority. We encourage Gambia to study examples of good practices and opportunities for accessing modern technology and methods in the area of agriculture and to gather the support of all sectors of society in identifying ways to ensure food security. We **recommend** that Gambia give more focus on building the capacity of institutions charged with poverty eradication, and with provision of adequate health services.

We wish Gambia success in its second UPR and in the promotion and protection of all human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.