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PHILIPPINES

Statement 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 IRAQ
03 November 2014**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Iraq to the 20th session of the UPR Working Group. We thank the delegation for presenting its comprehensive national report.

We recognize the significant progress made by Iraq in pursuing reforms in its legislative and normative human rights framework. We particularly take cognizance of the establishment of the High Commission for Human Rights, which we hope would be provided with sufficient resources to allow for the effective performance of its functions. We **recommend** that Iraq takes concrete measures to guarantee the independence of the High Commission for Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles.

We also note the development of a National Human Rights Plan and would be interested to know more about the details of how it is being implemented, along with the national strategy to combat violence against women. We **recommend** that Iraq take steps to ensure that national legislation on domestic violence provides appropriate penalties for perpetrators and legal and psycho-social support to victims, including children.

We acknowledge the positive engagement of Iraq with the human rights mechanisms and with the UPR process. We encourage the Government of Iraq to redouble efforts to implement its international human rights obligations and commitments, particularly in terms of promoting and protecting the human rights of the most vulnerable members of society,

We wish Iraq a successful review. Thank you, Mr. President.