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Statement by

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

UPR of KAZAKHSTAN

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Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, the Philippines would like to thank the delegation of Kazakhstan for its participation in the UPR and for the presentation of its national report for the second periodic review.

We appreciate the actions taken by the Government of Kazakhstan to try to improve the human rights situation in the country in the four years since its first UPR. It is of particular importance to acknowledge efforts made to provide accessible and quality health care for all citizens. Achievements in the realization of universal education at primary and secondary levels are commendable. We take positive note of the measures taken by Kazakhstan to provide better protection for women and children against domestic violence. The establishment of the national action plan to combat human trafficking is also encouraging.

However, my delegation understands that a number of challenges remain in the implementation of Kazakhstan's international human rights obligations. We wish to submit the following **recommendations** for Kazakhstan's consideration:

1. Further strengthen legislative and institutional mechanisms to combat all forms of exploitation and violation of women's and children's rights;
2. Take steps to align domestic legislation with international standards, particularly with regard to the definition of trafficking in persons, and the application of the principle of equal remuneration of pay for men and women in its labor laws;
3. Review the implementation of its National Human Rights Action Plan 2009-2012 to assess its effectiveness, evaluate possible strong points or areas for improvement, and identify needs for capacity-building and opportunities for international cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.