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**PHILIPPINES**

**Statement delivered by**  
**H.E. Amb. CECILIA B. REBONG**  
Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations  
and other International Organizations in Geneva

**20<sup>th</sup> session of the**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
Human Rights Council

**UPR of MADAGASCAR**  
03 November 2014

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Philippines welcomes and thanks the delegation of Madagascar for presenting its national report. My delegation regrets that the political crisis in the country hampered economic progress and the full implementation of the recommendations accepted by Madagascar in its first UPR.

We note the considerable challenges and constraints faced by Madagascar as a result of the political crisis. We appreciate the fact that Madagascar was able to introduce legislative reforms and restore constitutional order. We applaud the establishment of a national human rights institution.

Madagascar had taken significant first steps towards the ratification of international human rights instruments, such as the adoption of a bill that would facilitate the ratification of the Migrant Workers' Convention. The Philippines **recommends** that Madagascar accelerate efforts to accede to the ICRMW, and provide the Council with an update on its implementation at the next UPR reporting cycle.

We urge the Government of Madagascar to continue to live up to its international human rights obligations with regard to advancing the rights of women and children and combating gender-based violence. We look forward to the adoption of an expanded bill on trafficking in persons, and **recommends** that the implementation of anti-trafficking programs, particularly the intensification of prevention measures and the protection of trafficking victims, be made a priority. With regard to the right to education, we are concerned that universal education in Madagascar had been adversely affected by the crisis. We ~~appreciate and~~ encourage more comprehensive efforts to increase access to education, including of persons with disabilities.

We wish Madagascar success in the realization of the human rights of its people. Thank you, Mr. President.