

PHILIPPINES

13

Statement by

H.E. Ambassador CECILIA B. REBONG

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

**21st session of the
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Human Rights Council**

UPR of ARMENIA

22 January 2015

Thank you, Mister President. The Philippines extends a warm greeting to the delegation of Armenia and welcomes the presentation of its second UPR report.

My delegation recognizes Armenia's determined efforts to combat trafficking in persons and the provision of services and access to justice of trafficked victims that earned the country praises in various global reports. We also appreciate Armenia's programs that enable refugees to be integrated locally. We **recommend** that Armenia continue to enhance its positive policies and programs for trafficked victims and refugees.

Mr. President, my delegation welcomes the electoral reforms in Armenia aimed at increasing women representation in legislature. We are also pleased that a law on ensuring equal rights and opportunities between men and women was enacted by the National Assembly. We **recommend** that Armenia continue to ensure that adequate human and financial resources are allocated to implement laws and policies that address inequality between men and women.

The Philippines takes note of various international human rights instruments that Armenia either ratified or acceded to during the reporting period. We are pleased that Armenia signed the ICMRW. We **recommend** that Armenia step up its efforts to ratify the ICRMW. Noting that domestic workers are mostly migrant women, we further **recommend** that Armenia consider ratifying ILO Convention 189 on decent work for domestic workers.

Finally, Mister President, my delegation remains concerned about allegations that judicial independence remains to be wanting in Armenia. We encourage Armenia to accelerate the implementation of its Strategic Program for Legal and Judicial Reforms, including by improving the procedure for qualification test for judges selection and objective criteria and procedure for evaluation of performance and promotion of judges. Thank you, Mr. President. END