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**PHILIPPINES**

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 GUYANA**  
28 January 2015

Thank you, Mister President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Guyana and thanks it for the presentation of its comprehensive national report for its second UPR.

My delegation lauds Guyana's ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and members of their families, as well as the CRPD and the Optional Protocols to the CRC.

There had been remarkable progress in the promotion and protection of human rights in Guyana. We highlight, in particular, the significant achievements of Guyana in ensuring access to universal primary education, the steps it has taken to promote gender equality and women empowerment, and its active pursuit of poverty reduction programs. We also note several measures instituted to implement the Domestic Violence Act and Sexual Offenses Act.

The reforms undertaken by Guyana in its judicial and security sectors would also contribute greatly to strengthening human rights protection in the country.

In the hope that these positive developments will be sustained, and that remaining challenges in the realization of human rights in the country are addressed, the Philippines submits the following recommendations for Guyana:

1. Further strengthen awareness-raising and information programs to promote the rights of the child and consider developing a comprehensive national child protection mechanism or action plan;
2. Take measures to ensure effective implementation of laws and policies that combat trafficking in persons, including, but not limited to, tackling the root causes of trafficking and enhancing cooperation with international partners.
3. Intensify efforts to improve the quality of education, to deal with the issue of high dropout rates, and continue to increase resources for educational infrastructure.

We wish the Government of Guyana success in its efforts to guarantee the full enjoyment of all human rights of its people. Thank you, Mister President. *END*