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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 SPAIN
21 January 2015**

Thank you, Mister President.

The Philippines thanks the delegation of Spain for the presentation of its second UPR report.

My delegation is pleased to note positive developments in the fight against trafficking in persons and laud measures taken by Spain aimed at the elimination of gender-based violence and discrimination during the period under review.

The adverse impact of austerity measures to economic and socio-cultural rights of people in Spain has been evident in many fronts, including in the area of education. We note the programs that have been recently adopted to improve the quality and accessibility of education.

We understand the challenges faced by Spain with regard to the issue of migration, and appreciate efforts to deal with discrimination and xenophobia against migrants and the adoption of the Second Strategic Plan on Citizenship and Integration. We remain concerned, however, about alleged discrimination and ill-treatment of unaccompanied migrant children cited by UN human rights mechanisms.

We submit the following recommendations for the consideration of Spain:

1. Continue to take action to guarantee equal access to basic quality education for all children in the country, including children of migrants.
2. Take appropriate measures to ensure that the framework protocol for the protection of migrant children is consistent with international standards, and that it is effectively implemented and monitored.
3. Consider taking specific steps towards accession to the migrant workers' rights convention, or the ICRMW.

We wish Spain success in its second UPR. Thank you, Mister President. *END*