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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 SWEDEN
26 January 2015

Thank you, Mister President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Sweden and the presentation of its second UPR report. My delegation appreciates that Sweden views the UPR process as a vital component to its work for advancing human rights.

My delegation is pleased to note that Sweden has ratified 7 out of the 9 core international human rights convention. We recognize Sweden's important contribution in migration and development, especially in advancing migrants' human rights, with its active involvement with the UNHCR and having been the past chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. We **recommend** that Sweden considers ratifying other international human rights conventions, including the ICRMW and ILO Convention 189.

The Philippines understands that Sweden is taking serious steps to address discrimination and in combating violence against women. We laud Sweden for amending its anti-discrimination laws to make it easier for victims to seek redress. We also welcome Sweden's allocation of resources for programs and research to combat men's violence against women, including that in intimate relationship. We **recommend** that Sweden continue its programs to combat violence against women, including addressing the values and attitudes that contribute to the perpetration of violence.

Before closing Mister President, my delegation is interested to know Sweden's initiatives to safeguard the human rights of the Sami and Roma communities in its territory.

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