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**PHILIPPINES**

**Statement by H.E. Cecilia B. Rebong**

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative**

**to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**UPR of REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS**

**22nd Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Human Rights Council**

**11 May 2015**

Mister President, the Philippines welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) and the presentation of its 2nd UPR cycle national report.

As a fellow climate change vulnerable country, the Philippines understands the challenges and constraints faced by RMI. With the climate change induced sea level rise, increasing incidence of drought and destructive typhoons, it is not only the human rights of the people RMI, which are threatened, but also the very existence of RMI as nation. It is highly commendable that despite these serious challenges and constraints, RMI remained steadfast in promoting and protecting human rights.

My delegation appreciates that RMI ratified the CEDAW and CRC. We recall that during the 1st cycle of the UPR, RMI received numerous recommendations regarding ratification of other core international human rights treaties. We wish to be informed of the actions that have been taken by RMI towards the ratification of these human rights treaties, particularly in terms of securing technical assistance from UN entities and international organizations and from bilateral and multilateral partners.

We note that RMI is delayed in submitting its periodic reports in compliance with its obligations under these human rights conventions. Cognizant of the limited capacity of the RMI, my delegation **recommends** that RMI continue to engage its regional and international partners with the view of seeking technical and other assistance towards its full compliance with its human rights treaty obligations.

Thank you, Mister President.