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**PHILIPPINES**

**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Cecilia B. Rebong  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**UPR of AUSTRALIA  
23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
Human Rights Council  
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Mister President, the Philippines welcomes and thanks the distinguished delegation of Australia for the presentation of its second UPR report.

The Philippines acknowledges Australia's progress in implementing policies for enhancing women's and children's rights, including the appointment of the first National Children's Commissioner.

We appreciate plans to examine strategies to address the use of labor exploitation in the supply chain of goods and services, including through human trafficking and slavery.

We encourage Australia to continue to effectively address the concerns of indigenous peoples and to ensure that rights of migrants and asylum-seekers are protected by devising possible alternatives to detention.

My delegation recommends that Australia:

1. Expand support for human rights education and training initiatives, particularly for law enforcement officials handling migration issues;
2. Consider reviewing existing migration policies to address concerns that hinder accession to the ICRMW; and
3. Step up efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

We wish Australia success as it continues to give priority to the promotion of all human rights. Thank you, Mister President.