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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 AUSTRIA**

**23rd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Human Rights Council**

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Mister President, the Philippines warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Austria to the 23rd session of the UPR Working Group.

The Philippines thanks Austria for the presentation of its national report, which discusses recent developments in the human rights situation in the country since its last review.

We appreciate the adoption of an action plan to combat human trafficking in Austria. We note the concerns raised by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, particularly the treatment of child victims of prostitution as offenders.

The Philippines welcomes other significant measures taken to advance the human rights of disadvantaged and minority groups, including efforts to ensure the enjoyment by older persons of their rights.

My delegation submits the following recommendations for Austria’s consideration:

1. Continue to ensure that its anti-human trafficking programs remain victim-oriented and provide effective access to legal and psychological support to child victims of trafficking;

2. Strengthen programs providing equal access to health, education and social services for migrants and asylum seekers and their children; and

3. Take concrete steps towards accession to the ICRMW and ILO Convention 189.

We wish Austriaa successful review. Thank you, Mister President.