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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 GEORGIA
23rd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Human Rights Council
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Mister President, the Philippines welcome and thank the delegation of Georgia for the presentation of its second UPR report.

[At the outset, we congratulate Georgia for its election as a member of the Human Rights Council for the period 2016-2018. We look forward to Georgia's constructive engagement in the Council.]

The Philippines acknowledges the policies and strategies adopted by Georgia to implement the recommendations it has accepted in its first review, including those made by the Philippines with regard to the promotion of the rights of children, women and migrants.

We note the institutional and legislative reforms introduced by Georgia to improve its criminal justice and penitentiary systems, and to widen protection for victims of trafficking, especially children. Programs for making education more inclusive are also welcome developments.

The Philippines reiterates its **recommendation** for Georgia to promote inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue and cooperation, as a way of strengthening its non-discrimination programs and support its awareness-raising campaigns against discrimination.

The Philippines further **recommends** that Georgia ensure that its strategies for addressing domestic violence are effectively implemented, monitored and sustained.

We wish Georgia success as it continues to work towards building a harmonious and progressive society. Thank you, Mister President.