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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 the LEBANESE REPUBLIC**

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

**Human Rights Council**

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Mr. President,

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Lebanon and thanks it for its report.

We welcome the introduction of legislative reforms aimed at advancing the fundamental rights of people, particularly of persons with disabilities, and the affirmative action to protect women and children from discrimination, violence and abuse. We note the need to address remaining gaps in providing non-citizens with equal access to education, labor, health and other services. We commend the enactment of a law to criminalize trafficking in persons, and encourage Lebanon to ensure its effective implementation.

The Philippines appreciates Lebanon's hosting of a large number of refugees and migrants, providing safe passage and haven for migrants caught in countries in crisis. We particularly value the continued assistance provided by the Lebanese Government in the repatriation of Filipino migrants out of conflict areas.

We submit the following recommendations:

1. Continue to enhance domestic legal frameworks promoting the human rights, security and well-being of refugees and migrants in Lebanon;
2. Engage constructively with international and regional partners to secure support for programs aimed at providing humanitarian assistance to migrants and refugees;
3. Take steps toward accession to the ICRMW and ILO Convention 189.

We wish Lebanon a successful review. Thank you, Mr. President.