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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 FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA**

**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 delegation of Micronesia to the 2nd cycle of the UPR and thanks the delegation for the presentation of the national report.

The Philippines lauds the achievement of Micronesia in enacting the Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012, which is a first step to significantly lower the incidence of trafficking in women and girls in the country.

We welcome the commitment of Micronesia to intensify efforts in relation to the protection of women and children from domestic violence and abuse, and note that it has submitted its report to CEDAW.

We fully appreciate that Micronesia is extremely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, which presents a challenge to the realization of the human rights of its people.

My delegation recommends that Micronesia:

1. Continue to engage multilateral, regional, and bilateral partners with the view to build its capacity and its resources for the effective implementation of its anti-human trafficking programs, as well as disaster-risk reduction measures and climate change adaptation and mitigation programs; and

2. Strengthen its advocacy measures to educate and empower women, especially those who are in rural or hard-to-reach communities.

We wish Micronesia a successful review. Thank you, Mister President.