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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 MYANMAR**

**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 Myanmar and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its second UPR report.

The Philippines takes this opportunity to commend the Government and people of Myanmar for the remarkable progress achieved in instituting reforms that significantly improved the human rights situation in the country within a short period of time, notwithstanding resource constraints and other systemic challenges.

With its strong political will to bring about positive change, the Government of Myanmar deserves assurance of support and cooperation from the international community. As a fellow ASEAN member, the Philippines reiterates its readiness to work and cooperate with Myanmar in pursuing economic and social reform programs to achieve people-centered, sustainable development in the region.

Along this line, my delegation **recommends** that Myanmar consider accession to international human rights instruments that it is not yet a party to, including the ICCPR and ICRMW.

We trust that Myanmar will remain resolute in cultivating an environment conducive to peace and stability and in addressing remaining challenges, including in the Rakhine State. We are confident that the upcoming general elections will not be the culmination of its efforts but a springboard for action to further solidify recent development gains, strengthen democratic processes and advance human rights in Myanmar.

We wish Myanmar a successful UPR. Thank you, Mister President.