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**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Cecilia B. Rebong
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**UPR of OMAN
23rd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Human Rights Council
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Mister President, the Philippines welcomes the delegation of Oman to this session of the UPR Working Group and thanks it for its report.

We acknowledge the progress achieved by Oman in fulfilling the socio-economic and other fundamental rights of its people. We note improvements in Oman's normative framework with the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, which could be instrumental in coordinating and monitoring Oman's implementation of and compliance with its international human rights obligations. The Philippines encourages Oman to consider setting up an independent human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles.

We wish to highlight as well possible areas for improvement, particularly in strengthening civil and political rights, freedom of assembly and association, and providing greater opportunities for women's civic and political participation.

We urge the Government of Oman to continue to ensure the protection of migrant workers, and would like to submit the following recommendations:

1. Review the kafala system, and study possible alternatives in managing foreign labor, with a view to strengthening protection for domestic workers, including from violence and abuse, and to provide effective avenues for redress.
2. Ensure that foreign nationals in detention have access to consular assistance by establishing measures that could facilitate timely issuance of permits for prison visits by consular authorities.
3. Consider accession to the ICRMW and ILO Convention 189.

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