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PHILIPPINES

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

**UPR of SAINT LUCIA
23rd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Human Rights Council
05 November 2015**

Mister President, the Philippines is pleased to welcome the delegation of Saint Lucia to the 23rd session of the UPR Working Group. We thank Saint Lucia for its report on the implementation of recommendations it accepted from its first review.

Among Saint Lucia's notable achievements are its ratification of the Optional Protocols to the CRC, its accession to the Palermo Protocol, and the enactment of legislation to criminalize trafficking in persons.

Cognizant of the challenges being faced by Saint Lucia as a small island developing state that is vulnerable to climate change, we commend Saint Lucia's commitment to work with development partners to advance the socio-economic rights of its people.

We appreciate the steps being taken by Saint Lucia to address gender parity issues, including in education, as well as its efforts to implement the National Strategic Plan for Health, and to introduce reforms in its juvenile justice system.

We would be interested to hear about Saint Lucia's experience in introducing human rights education and training to increase the capacity and improve the working methods of its law enforcement officials.

The Philippines recommends that Saint Lucia:

1. Continue to strengthen its human rights infrastructure by adopting legislation and programs that would protect women and children from domestic violence and other forms of abuse, in line with international standards.
2. Redouble efforts to secure support from the UN and international organizations in establishing an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.

We wish Saint Lucia success in its second UPR. Thank you, Mister President.