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**PHILIPPINES**

**UPR of BELGIUM**

**24TH Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Human Rights Council**

**20 January 2016**

Mister President, the Philippines welcomes the delegation of Belgium to the 2nd cycle of the UPR.

The Philippines appreciates Belgium’s ratification of several international and regional human right treaties, including its recent ratification of ILO Convention 189. We hope that Belgium will continue to work towards the ratification of other international human rights treaties that it is not yet a state party. In particular, we **recommend** that Belgium consider ratifying ICRMW and OPCAT.

My delegation notes the progress made by Belgium in strengthening of its institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. We **recommend** that Belgium step up its efforts to establish its national human rights institution that is compliant with the Paris Principles.

We commend Belgium for its improved policies towards the migrants and asylum seekers. In the face of increased number of migrants entering Europe, we **recommend** that Belgium continue its efforts in providing migrants, including those in irregular situation and migrant children, access to health, education, and other social services at par with its nationals.

We welcome the improved domestic legal framework to protect and promote women’s rights. We are concern, however, that domestic violence, where most of the victims are women, remains a challenge. We are also concern with the reported wage gap as well as pension gap between men and women. My delegation wishes to know how Belgium is addressing these concerns.

Finally, we wish Belgium a successful review. Thank you, Mister President.