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**PHILIPPINES**

**UPR of ESTONIA**

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

**Human Rights Council**

**19 January 2016**

Mister President, the Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of Estonia to the 2nd cycle of the UPR and the presentation of its national report.

My delegation notes with appreciation Estonia’s ratification of several international and regional human right treaties, including its recent ratification of the CRPD and its Protocol. We **recommend** that Estonia step up its efforts towards the ratification of other international human rights treaties that it is not yet a state party. In particular, we **recommend** that Estonia consider ratifying ICRMW and ILO Convention 189.

We commend Estonia for its improved policies towards the Roma and migrants. In the face of increased number of migrants entering Europe, we **recommend** that Estonia continue its efforts in providing migrants and other sectors in vulnerable situation greater access to health, education, and other social services.

The Philippines appreciates the achievements of Estonia in the field of human rights, particularly the substantial amendments on its Penal Code and the great strides it has taken in combatting violence, including domestic violence.

We welcome Estonia’s abolition of death penalty. We also acknowledge its policies and programs to combat trafficking in persons. We encourage Estonia to continue to review and revise its penal laws to address the concern of buying of sexual services from victims of trafficking.

Mister President, it is highly commendable that despite economic challenges and constraints, Estonia remained steadfast in promoting and protecting human rights. We wish Estonia a successful review.

Thank you, Mister President.