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**PHILIPPINES**

**UPR of the Republic of LATVIA**

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

**Human Rights Council**

**26 January 2016**

Mr. President, the Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Latvia to the 2nd cycle of the UPR and the presentation of its national report.

My delegation acknowledges the progress achieved by Latvia since its UPR in May 2011, specifically on promoting gender equality; protecting women against violence; promoting human rights of every individual, including civilians, minorities and children; promoting education and society integration, and combating hate crimes.

We note the great progress in women’s involvement in decision-making, especially in economy, through which one third of all enterprises in Latvia belong to women, and that in 2014, 31.44% of all positions in company boards and councils were held by women. At the same time, we recognize the efforts made to address the root causes of the gender pay gap.

We are, however, concerned about the reported continuing trafficking in persons for sexual and labour expoloitation, particularly of young women. We encourage Latvia to address this concern.

The Philippines recommends the following:

1. Consider ratifying ICRMW and ILO Convention 189; and
2. Step up efforts to enforce anti-trafficking legislation.

We wish Latvia a successful review. Thank you, Mr. President.