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**PHILIPPINES**

**UPR of the REPUBLIC OF NIGER**

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

**Human Rights Council**

**18 January 2016**

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

As a fellow climate change vulnerable country, my delegation understands the challenges and constraints faced by Niger, particularly the adverse impact of the climate change induced desertification. We are also cognizant of the serious security challenges experienced by Niger with terrorist groups, such as the Boko Haram. It is highly commendable that despite these serious challenges and constraints, Niger remains steadfast in promoting and protecting human rights.

It is in this regard that we **recommend** that Niger continue to engage its regional and international partners with the view of seeking technical and other assistance towards its full compliance with its human rights treaty obligations. We also **recommend** that it continue to uphold and respect human rights standards and obligations as it pursues counter terrorist operations.

My delegation welcomes Niger’s ratification of several international human right treaties. We recognize its strengthened domestic normative framework and the establishment of institutions in pursuit of human rights promotion and protection. We encourage Niger to continue to its efforts toward the ratification of other international human rights treaties that it is not yet a state party. We **recommend** that Niger consider ratifying ILO Convention 189.

We appreciate Niger’s efforts towards the abolition death penalty, including its recent decision to abolish death penalty for minor offenders. We also acknowledge its policies and programs to combat trafficking in persons and slavery. We, however, remain concern about the deaths of migrants who are victims of human smuggling.

We commend Niger for continuing to welcome refugees and migrants despite its resource constraints. We appreciate in particular its policy of providing to refugees and migrants equal access to health, education, decent work and other social services.

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