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**PHILIPPINES**

**UPR of PARAGUAY**

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

**Human Rights Council**

**20 January 2016**

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

The Philippines is encouraged by Paraguay’s achievements in the field of poverty reduction through targeted support and economic incentives. We note the progress made by Paraguay in establishing and strengthening of institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. We welcome the abolition death penalty in Paraguay.

As a similarly situated country with a large number of its people working and residing abroad, we appreciate Paraguay’s ratification of ICRMW and ILO Convention 189. We **recommend** that Paraguay consider withdrawing its reservation to Article 76 and 77 of the ICRMW.

We acknowledge Paraguay’s policies and programs to combat trafficking in persons. We **recommend** that Paraguay provide adequate human resources and budget to implement its national anti trafficking in persons policies and programs.

My delegation commends the efforts of Paraguay to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples (IP), including the distribution of land deeds covering more than 280 hectares to IP communities. We encourage Paraguay to address conflicting land claims between IP communities and private landowners. We **recommend** that Paraguay step up its efforts in formulating protocol to implement the indigenous peoples right to free, prior and informed consent.

We wish Paraguay a successful review. Thank you, Mister President.