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**PHILIPPINES**

**UPR of the REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**

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

**Human Rights Council**

**25 January 2016**

Thank you Mr. President, the Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Seychelles to the 2nd cycle of the UPR.

We welcome the establishment of the Seychelles Human Rights Treaty Committee (SHRTC), which includes the creation of the national legal and policy framework on trafficking in persons. The Philippines notes the improvements made in the fields of health, employment and women empowerment, among others.

Despite this progress, the Philippines is concerned with the apparent lack of strategy on promoting education, an important component of human rights and a priority for Seychelles.

Moreover, we are also concerned with reported continued lack of appropriate treatment accorded to persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees, inadequate freedom of expression and to participate in public and political life and violence against women.

The Philippines makes the following recommendations:

1. Speed up Seychelles’ domestic processes with the view to ratify international human rights, treaties; and

2. Harmonize national legislations, including in particular human rights legislations, with international human rights standards.

Mr. President, the Philippines remains supportive of Seychelles’ efforts to improve and promote human rights. We wish Seychelles a successful UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President.