*Pls. check against delivery*

**PHILIPPINES**

**UPR of SOLOMON ISLANDS**

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

**Human Rights Council**

**25 January 2016**

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

The Philippines acknowledges the progress made by Solomon Islands since the previous UPR, including the ratification of a number of ILO fundamental conventions, as well as its ongoing efforts to ratify the international human rights treaties and optional protocols to which it is not yet a state party.

We commend its efforts to develop a 10-year National Development Strategy (NDS) 2011-2020 whose core objectives include, among others, poverty alleviation, support to vulnerable members of society, access to quality health care, quality education, increased economic growth, and protection from natural disasters.

We note the enactment of legislation against domestic violence, which indeed is a significant achievement in the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children. We recognize the improvements made to strengthen the country’s democratic system, enhancements on correctional facilities, and efforts to combat the negative impact of climate change.

However, we agree that challenges remain, in implementing, promoting and protecting human rights within its legislative and policy frameworks, particularly gender inequality and discrimination and violence against women and children. We encourage Solomon Islands to endeavor to increase the participation of women in rural areas towards community building and economic empowerment.

The Philippines makes the following recommendations:

1. Consider ratifying the ICCPR, CAT, ICRMW and CRPD;

2. Ensure that national laws are in line with international human rights

standards; and

3. Accelerate the process of adopting the new federal constitution.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.