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**PHILIPPINES**

**UPR of the Government of SAMOA**

**25th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Human Rights Council**

**3 May 2016**

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President, the Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of the Government of Samoa to the 2nd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the presentation of its national report.

Our delegation recognizes the reform it has undergone since its first UPR in May 2011, including the establishment of the new National Human Rights Institution, and the enactment of legislative measures to address various economic, social and political concerns raised during its first UPR.

Indeed, this is a reflection of Samoa’s serious commitment to the UPR process towards mainstreaming human rights in all areas of the Samoan Government.

The Philippines, however, notes the health challenges and priorities facing the small island developing state with the changing climate. As a similarly situated climate change vulnerable country, we appreciate Samoa’s substantial progress in ensuring its people’s right to health. We call on the international community to extend financial and technical resources to Samoa as it address concerns on high levels of non-communicable diseases and related health issues induced by climate change.

The Philippines recommends that Samoa:

1. Consider ratifying international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a state party; and
2. Enhance efforts to improve on access to quality education for all at all levels.

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