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**PHILIPPINES**

**UPR of the Republic of SURINAME**

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

**Human Rights Council**

**2 May 2016**

Mr. President, the Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of the Republic of Suriname, headed by its Minister of Justice and Police, to the 2nd cycle of the UPR and the presentation of its national report.

My delegation acknowledges the progress achieved by Suriname since its UPR in May 2011, specifically on promoting women’s and children’s rights, combatting trafficking in persons, upholding human rights principles and safeguarding the well-being of every individual.

We note with appreciation Suriname’s programs aimed at raising awareness among women on domestic violence and the harm it causes. We also appreciate the efforts to revise its Civil Code to address the women labor concerns. We also acknowledge the implementation of several other legislations and revisions made to specific government laws to improve the legal status and protect civil and political rights of individuals, including and most especially of women.

Despite the progress made, the Philippines is concerned with the allegations of lack of recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and the need for improvement in the access to educational services for indigenous children.

The Philippines recommends the following:

1. Promote education for all, especially for indigenous and tribal children, as well as step up efforts to preserve languages of the indigenous communities.
2. Ratify ICRMW and CAT.

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