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**PHILIPPINES**

**UPR of ICELAND**

**26th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Human Rights Council**

**01 November 2016**

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Iceland and the presentation of its second national report. The Philippines appreciates the inter agency consultations and inclusive process in the preparation of its national report.

My delegation is encouraged by Iceland’s great strides in gender equality, its well deserved recognition as a world leader on gender equality, and its achievement of topping World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Index in the last seven years. We urge Iceland to address concerns regarding the reported high number of cases of violence against women.

We note that decent working conditions and respect for worker’s rights are considered essential elements for fair and balanced social development in Iceland, and that trade unions are well established in Iceland. We also welcome Iceland’s ratification of several ILO conventions on workers’ rights and the incorporation of provisions of the ICMRW in Icelandic legislation.

My delegation remains concern that Iceland has yet to establish its national human rights institution, allocated with adequate resources, with a broad mandate, in line with the Paris Principles, and with specific mandates on women’s and children’s rights.

We are likewise concern that that despite its several sector-specific action plans on human rights, Iceland does not have a comprehensive national human rights action plan that will serve as a platform for coherence and sustainability of the policies and provide a collaborative space for all human rights actors.

My delegation recommends the following:

1. Consider ratifying the ICRMW and ILO Convention 189;
2. Step up efforts to establish its national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles; and
3. Continue efforts to formulate its national human rights action plan.

Finally Mister President, my delegation congratulates Iceland for its successful parliamentary elections last weekend.

We wish Iceland success in the implementation of its accepted UPR recommendations. Thank you, Mister President. END