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**PHILIPPINES**

**UPR of SOUTH SUDAN**

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

**Human Rights Council**

**07 November 2016**

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of South Sudan and the presentation of its national report.

My delegation understands that South Sudan is experiencing transition challenges associated with early post independence period and efforts to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Despite these challenges, it is commendable that South Sudan’s Transitional Constitution embraces a catalogue of human rights and fundamental freedoms and establishes a national human rights institution in line with Paris Principle.

We welcome South Sudan’s ratification, without reservation, of the CEDAW and CAT as well as of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights. My delegation appreciates South Sudan’s affirmative actions aimed addressing gender inequality rooted in history, customs and traditions, including the guarantee that at least 25% of positions in the executive and legislative branches of the government is allocated to women.

My delegation recommends the following:

1. Continue to engage its regional and international partners with the view of seeking technical and other assistance in the field of human rights;
2. Continue to cooperate with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan; and
3. Consider ratifying other international and regional human rights conventions that it is not yet a state party.

Finally, Mr. President, we wish South Sudan success in the implementation of its accepted UPR recommendations. Thank you, Mister President. END