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**PHILIPPINES**

**UPR of VENEZUELA**

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

**Human Rights Council**

**1 November 2016**

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Venezuela and the presentation of its report.

The Philippines appreciates the Venezuela’s continuing adherence to principles of representative and participatory democracy that encourage grassroots participation and social inclusion and sharing of responsibilities among stakeholders. We welcome its determination to strengthen mechanism for the protection of human rights of its people despite challenges it has to surmount.

My delegation lauds Venezuela for its programs and mechanism for gender equality and equity at the national and grassroots levels, including the setting up of 2,033 gender equality and equity committees, the 12,652 neighborhood mothers’ committees and the Presidential Council for Women.

We urge Venezuela to positively address the remaining challenges in promoting and protecting all human rights of its people.

My delegation recommends the following:

1. Consider ratifying the ICRMW and ILO Convention 189;
2. Continue efforts towards gender equality and equity; and
3. Continue efforts to ensure that its domestic legislations are in line with international human rights standards.

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