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**PHILIPPINES**

UPR of the ECUADOR

27th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Human Rights Council

2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., 1 May 2017

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Ecuador and the presentation of its third national report for the 3rd cycle of the UPR process.

We commend Ecuador for reducing economic inequality by 40%, one of the highest in Latin America, and increasing by about 300% its investment in public education. We also welcome the adoption of the National Plan of Good Living, 2013-2017, and 2012 Organic Act on Disabilities. We laud Ecuador for the steps it has taken to protect women’s rights through public awareness campaigns and legal measures.

We note with appreciation Ecuador’s ratification of ILO Convention 189 and the enactment of domestic laws to facilitate the implementation of its obligations under the Convention. We welcome Ecuador’s ratification of the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Mister President, despite the challenges from the disastrous aftermath of the strong earthquake that hit the country in April 2016, killing more than 600 Ecuadorian and destroying public and private infrastructures, Ecuador never waivered on its commitment to human rights.

My delegation recommends the following:

1. Step up efforts to pursue policies and programs for healthy environment; and
2. Ensure the effective implementation of policies and operations aimed at dismantling trafficking networks and smuggling of migrants.

Finally, Mister President, we wish Ecuador success in the implementation of the accepted recommendations in this cycle of the UPR.

Thank you, Mister President. **END**