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**PHILIPPINES**

UPR of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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

Human Rights Council

9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 4 May 2017

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the presentation of its national report.

We appreciate the progress made by the UK in human rights, notably in addressing violence against women, trafficking in persons, slavery, hate crimes, business and human rights and climate change.

We note with concern that gender pay gap remains high at 18% and the general reluctance to subscribe to multilateral obligations on migrants and refugees.UK should also plug serious gaps in its programs to address the rights to health and decent work of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, especially of women and unaccompanied children.

My delegation wishes to be enlightened on rationale of the heavily criticized new UK Home Office policy that requires people who are granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK will now have to undergo a “safe return review” after five years to assess whether they can be returned to the countries they have fled from before they could be allowed to apply for permanent settlement.

My delegation recommends the following:

1. Enact legislation to ensure accountability on human rights violations and environmental damages resulting from global operations of UK companies;
2. Adopt a victim centered comprehensive national framework against trafficking in persons, especially women and girls; and
3. Ratify ICRMW and ILO Convention 189;

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

Thank you, Mister President. **END**