 **PHILIPPINES**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**44th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

08 November 2023, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

**REVIEW OF UZBEKISTAN**

The Philippines warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Uzbekistan and presentation of the national report.

We commend Uzbekistan for undertaking constitutional reforms enshrining the full protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and for adopting the National Human Rights Strategy.

We also positively note the establishment of the Children’s Rights Ombudsman Office and National Commission on Children to promote and safeguard the rights and welfare of children.

In the spirit of constructive dialogue, we offer the following recommendations:

1. Sustain efforts to harmonize domestic laws with recent constitutional reforms and international human rights obligations, particularly on strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law;
2. Strictly enforce the law adopted in April 2023 explicitly criminalizing domestic violence; and
3. Expand measures aimed at providing the necessary protection and support, including legal, social, and psychological assistance, to victims and survivors of gender-based violence.

The Philippines wishes Uzbekistan all success in this review.

Thank you. **END**