 **PHILIPPINES**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**45th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

22 January 2024, 14:30 – 18:00, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

**REVIEW OF SENEGAL**

*To be delivered by*

**First Secretary Luningning Camoying Valdez/ Mr. Neil C. Brillantes**

*Speaking time: 1 minute*

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Senegal to this 4th Cycle Universal Periodic Review.

My delegation notes the strides made by Senegal in norm- and institution-building in line with human rights treaty obligations.

We also acknowledge significant efforts to combat gender-based violence, including the enactment of Act No. 2020-05 criminalizing rape and paedophilia, and in addressing serious issues that impinge on the rights and welfare of children, especially the girl-child.

To build on the gains achieved during the review period, my delegation recommends the following:

1. Accelerate the process of adopting the Children’s Code;
2. Incorporate human rights education, with particular focus on gender equality and children’s rights, in school curricula at all levels; and
3. Step up preventive measures to protect children, including those in street situations, from forced **begging, forced and early marriage, and sexual exploitation.**

The Philippine wishes Senegal all success in this review process. Thank you. END