**Human Rights Council**

**48th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Universal Periodic Review of the GAMBIA**

21 January 2025, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Palais des Nations, Room XX,

To be delivered by

**First Secretary Luningning Camoying Valdez**

*Speaking Time: 1 minute*

Thank you, Mr. Vice President. The Philippines warmly welcomes the esteemed delegation of the Gambia.

We laud the adoption of legislations and policies that uphold non-discrimination, inclusion and equality, such as the Labour Act 2023, Persons with Disabilities Act 2021, and Education Policy 2016-2030.

To build on gains, allow us to offer the following recommendations:

1. Further intensify efforts to combat gender-based violence, including through awareness raising initiatives on the profound negative impact of gender stereotypes and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation;
2. Continue to ensure that Child Protection Units are adequately resourced and the personnel are equipped with the knowledge and skills to effectively provide the necessary services to victims of sexual abuse and exploitation; and
3. Further strengthen the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons through more partnerships with neighboring countries and relevant multilateral institutions, as appropriate, in line with national priorities.

In closing, the Philippines wishes the Gambia every success in this review cycle. Thank you. END