**PHILIPPINES**

**Human Rights Council**

**37th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

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**SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE**

Speaking Time: 1 min 40 seconds

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of Sao Tome and Principe to the third cycle UPR and thanks it for the presentation of the national report.

We welcome Sao Tome and Principe’s recent accession to several core international human rights instruments since the 2nd cycle, including the ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT, CMW and CERD. We also acknowledge the steps taken to better protect the rights of children, including the right to a name and nationality, and through social assistance to the poorest and most vulnerable children.

In a constructive spirit, the Philippines presents the following recommendations for consideration by Sao Tome and Principe:

1. Further reinforce its children’s rights framework through concrete measures to address child prostitution and sexual exploitation;
2. Consider the establishment of a proactive reporting system to international and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as an organized record-keeping system to address data gaps, especially in children’s rights; and
3. Strengthen efforts to empower women, especially in encouraging recourse to available legal remedies when their rights are violated.

We wish Sao Tome and Principe a successful review.

Thank you, Chair. **END.**