 **PHILIPPINES**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**39th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

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**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

Speaking Time: 1 min 55 sec

Speaking Order: 33 of 60

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

We laud Antigua and Barbuda for its ratification of the ICESR in 2018 and the ICCPR in 2019. We acknowledge the country’s technical cooperation efforts with the OHCHR on strengthening capacities to implement its international human rights obligations.

We are also pleased to note the efforts made to strengthen measures against trafficking in persons.

In a constructive spirit, the Philippines presents the following recommendations for consideration by Antigua and Barbuda:

1. Further strengthen gender mainstreaming in national development strategies and ensure the participation of women and relevant stakeholders in program planning and implementation;

1. Strengthen efforts to build the capacity of duty bearers on the implementation of international human rights obligations to which the country is a signatory; and
2. Continue to allocate sufficient resources to programs on combating trafficking in persons and provide adequate services to victims to support their reintegration and rehabilitation.

We wish Antigua and Barbuda every success in this review cycle.

Thank you, Chair. ***END.***