 **PHILIPPINES**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

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

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**PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Speaking Time: 1 min 55 sec

Speaking Order: 2 of 59

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of Papua New Guinea to the third UPR cycle and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

We take positive note of Papua New Guinea´s constructive engagements with the human rights mechanisms and welcome the government’s adoption of a National Strategy on Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV for 2018-2022.

In a constructive spirit, the Philippines presents the following recommendations for consideration by Papua New Guinea:

1. Consider further measures to address barriers to girls’ education and improve the retention of female students in the education system;
2. Further strengthen women’s economic participation and access to livelihood opportunities;
3. Take further steps to address and protect women and girls from all forms of gender-based violence including sorcery accusation-related violence; and
4. Take further steps to increase the participation of women in the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary.

We wish Papua New Guinea every success in this review cycle.

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