 **PHILIPPINES**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**40th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

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**ICELAND**

Speaking Time: 1 minute and 15 seconds

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Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Iceland and thanks it for the presentation of its national report.

We welcome Iceland’s ratification of the CRPD in 2016 and recognize its efforts with respect to promoting and advancing gender equality. However, we are concerned about the reported rise in racist discourse and incitement to racial hatred in the media.

In a constructive spirit, the Philippines presents the following recommendations for consideration by Iceland:

1. Intensify public information campaign to raise awareness on combating racist hate speech;
2. Include national or ethnic origin as a ground of discrimination in its General Penal Code;
3. Take immediate and effective steps to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities, particularly those with Down syndrome, and strengthen public awareness campaigns to uphold their rights and provide comprehensive support and assistance to concerned persons and their families;
4. Take concrete actions to establish its national human rights institution that is fully compliant with the Paris Principles.
5. Conduct awareness-raising campaigns among the private sector to prevent and address racial discrimination and exploitation especially against foreign workers;
6. Step up efforts to ensure greater access by women from minority backgrounds and immigrant women to support services for sexual and gender-based violence; and
7. Ratify the ICRMW.

We wish Iceland every success in this review cycle.

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