 **PHILIPPINES**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

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

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**ZIMBABWE**

Speaking Time: 1 minute and 5 seconds

Speaking Order: 43rd of 101

Thank you, Chair.

The Philippines welcomes the delegation of Zimbabwe and thanks it for the presentation of its national report. We acknowledge Zimbabwe’s commitment and constructive approach to the UPR process.

My delegation acknowledges the concrete steps taken by Zimbabwe to advance the rights of persons with disabilities and welcomes its launch of the National Disability Policy. We also recognize the increased investments in the health sector and women’s economic development.

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

1. Consider strengthening policy measures on gender equality and on combating gender-based violence;
2. Continue to allocate resources to programs that promote and advance women’s rights; and
3. Step up efforts in strengthening policy measures against trafficking in persons in line with the Palermo Protocol and enhance the availability of support services for victims.

We wish Zimbabwe every success in this review cycle.

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