 **PHILIPPINES**

Human Rights Council

**42nd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**UPR of GHANA**

24 January 2023

Thank you, Mr President.

The Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of Ghana led by H.E. Godfred Yeboah Dame, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

The Philippines positively notes Ghana’s establishment of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-ups (NMRF) and the enactment of laws on good governance and access to justice for all, such as the Witness Protection Act (2018), Right to Information Act, (2019), and the Companies Act (2019).

The Philippines likewise welcomes headways in the promotion of gender equality and the fight against gender-based violence and human trafficking, particularly of the girl-child. In the spirit of cooperation and friendship, the Philippines recommends that Ghana:

1. Enhance the enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act, including against female genital mutilation and other harmful practices, and optimize the utilization of the Domestic Violence Fund;
2. Conduct thorough investigation of complaints of domestic violence and criminally prosecute the perpetrators; and
3. Further intensify efforts, including under the Inclusive and Special Education Programme, to increase access to quality education by children, especially girls and those with special needs.

In closing, the Philippines wishes Ghana all success in this review process.

Thank you, Mr. President. **END.**