 **PHILIPPINES**

Human Rights Council

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

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF SRI LANKA**

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**Speaking time: 01 minute and 05 seconds**

Thank you, Mr President.

The Philippines warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Sri Lanka and thanks it for the presentation of its fourth national report.

My Delegation lauds Sri Lanka’s efforts to bring domestic human rights frameworks in line with international norms and standards, particularly its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and its “abolitionist policy” on the death penalty.

We welcome the recent approval of the establishment of the Office for Overseas Sri Lankans to address social concerns brought about by migration and to accord more protection to Sri Lanka’s diaspora.

We note with appreciation the allocation of significant financial resources to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka which was one of our recommendations from the last UPR.

My delegation, in a constructive spirit, recommends the following:

1. Continue to constructively engage and cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms, including through technical cooperation that support national initiatives.
2. Sustain efforts aimed at meaningful and sustainable national reconciliation, including by providing adequate resources to the Office of Missing Persons, Office of Reparations and Office for National Unity and Reconciliation.

Lastly, the Philippines wishes Sri Lanka success in this review process.

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