**PHILIPPINES**

**Human Rights Council**

**43rd session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Universal Periodic Review of ROMANIA**

02 May 2023, Room XX

Speaking Time: 1 minute and 25 seconds

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Philippines welcomes the steps taken by Romania to strengthen its legislative and policy frameworks on human rights since the last review, particularly the adoption of national strategies on social inclusion, poverty reduction, and the promotion of gender equality and children’s rights.

Nonetheless, the Philippines notes that domestic violence against women and girls, human trafficking, and discrimination remain formidable challenges. The Philippines recommends that Romania:

1. Ensure the effective implementation of the law and strategy on preventing and combating domestic violence by:

* providing adequate assistance to victims/survivors, including psychosocial services and temporary shelters;
* capacitating law enforcement in handling domestic violence cases in order to prevent re-traumatization of victims/survivors; and
* adopt measures to improve the public’s trust in the justice system to encourage victims to come forward and hold violators accountable.

1. Intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including by providing training to law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges in enforcing the anti-trafficking law;
2. Further enhance mechanisms to protect vulnerable children from sexual exploitation and other abuses online and offline, especially children with parents working abroad and those belonging to the Roma minority;
3. Take urgent and effective interventions to further reduce mother and child mortality and morbidity; and
4. Effectively implement the 2022-2027 National Strategy for the inclusion of the Roma minority by allocating adequate resources to facilitate their access to public services, particularly education and health.

In closing, the Philippines wishes Romania all success in this review and in the implementation of accepted recommendations. Thank you. END