**PHILIPPINES**

**Human Rights Council**

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

**Universal Periodic Review of MONTENEGRO**

08 May 2023, 09:00 to 12:30 a.m. Room XX

To be delivered by

**First Secretary Luningning Camoying Valdez**

Speaking Time: **01 minute and 25 seconds**

Mr. President,

The Philippines warmly welcomes the esteemed delegation of Montenegro and the presentation of its report.

The Philippines positively notes Montenegro’s ongoing efforts to strengthen its legislative and policy frameworks, particularly with the adoption of various strategies to protect the rights of specific groups including women, children, and stateless persons.

In the spirit of constructive dialogue, the Philippines offers the following recommendations:

1. Intensify efforts to combat domestic violence by fully investigating all reported cases of gender-based violence and providing accessible legal aid, shelter and specialized support to victims;
2. Further strengthen accountability mechanisms for human trafficking cases, especially those involving women and children subjected to forced labor and sexual exploitation, by ensuring compliance with the non-punishment principle and providing adequate psychosocial assistance to victims, among others.
3. Continue to expand access to quality education and health services by all children, particularly those from minority groups, children with disabilities, and refugee and asylum-seeking children; and

4. Step up efforts to ensure a uniform, simplified and accessible procedure for birth registration of stateless persons in its territory.

The Philippines wishes the Government of Montenegro all success in this review and in implementing the accepted recommendations. Thank you, Mr. President. END