**PHILIPPINES**

**Human Rights Council**

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

**Universal Periodic Review of UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

08 May 2023, Room XX

To be delivered by

**H.E. Evan P. Garcia**

*Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations* in Geneva

*Speaking Time: 1 minute*

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Philippines warmly welcomes the esteemed delegation of the United Arab Emirates[[1]](#footnote-1)*.*

With over 600,000 Filipinos in the Emirates, the Philippines welcomes the strides made by the government in labor governance reforms, including the adoption of Act No. 33 in 2021 and Act No. 9 in 2022 that aim to guarantee just and favorable working conditions for private sector and household service workers, respectively.

In the spirit of our two countries’ longstanding friendship, the Philippines recommends that the UAE:

1. Continue its constructive engagement with labor-sending countries to strengthen protection mechanisms for migrant workers, especially those in the most vulnerable sectors, particularly in the areas of access to justice and other remedies; and
2. Further enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, with particular focus on victim protection and assistance in line with the non-punishment principle.

Finally, noting the deep and wide-ranging impact of the worsening climate crisis on the enjoyment of human rights, the Philippines reiterates its support for UAE’s chairmanship of COP28 as it steers the global climate agenda towards urgent and bolder climate action. Thank you. END

1. *led by H.E. Ms. Shamma Sohail Faris Ghanem AL MAZRUI, Minister of Community Development* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)