**PHILIPPINES**

**Human Rights Council**

**29th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Delivered by**

**Mr. RAPHAEL S.C. HERMOSO,**

**First Secretary,**

**Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations and**

**Other International Organizations in Geneva,**

**On the occasion of the**

**UPR of TONGA**

15 January 2018, HRC Chamber

Speaking Time: 3 min

Madam Vice-President,

The Philippine delegation welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga to the UPR process.

The Philippines notes that despite the political disruption last year after the dissolution of the Parliament, violence and bloodshed have been avoided. It was a relatively smooth transition, with both the Executive and the Monarch open to accommodating each other’s interests.

My delegation also acknowledges the Tongan Government’s efforts to provide adequate laws and establish administrative mechanisms that aim to protect women and girls, in particular, the criminalization of rape and domestic violence.

Madam Vice-President, the Philippines submits the following recommendations to the Government of Tonga:

* to address the issues of trafficking in women and children; and
* to prioritize the ratification of core international human rights treaties, in particular, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In closing, the Philippines wishes the Kingdom of Tonga success in the continued implementation of its accepted recommendations.

Thank you, Madam Vice-President.