**PHILIPPINES**

**Human Rights Council**

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

**Remarks delivered by**

**MINISTER ENRICO T. FOS,**

**Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations,**

**On the occasion of the**

**UPR of BOTSWANA**

17 January 2018, HRC Chamber

Speaking Time: 1 min 25

Thank you, Mister Vice-President.

The Philippine delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Botswana to the UPR process and appreciates the multi-stakeholders consultations process it convened to draft its National Report.

The Philippines also welcomes the progress made by Botswana in promoting and protecting human rights since its 2nd cycle UPR, in particular, its efforts on addressing concerns on human trafficking, migrants protection, and poverty alleviation.

The Philippines recognizes Botswana's enactment of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2014 and the efforts of the leadership of President Ian Khama to provide adequate housing to its population in need, in particular through the Presidential Housing Appeal.

The Philippines remains concerned with the statement of Botswana in its present National Report that there is no work towards ratification of the ICRMW[[1]](#footnote-2). Nonetheless, my delegation commends Botswana on the progress it has made in developing its National Migration Policy.

In this backdrop, the Philippines submits the following recommendations:

* ratify the ICRMW and harmonize its National Migration Policy with the principles espoused in the ICRMW;
* continue to address concerns on discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation or gender identity;
* increase efforts in promoting the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples; and
* for the government to work closely with civil society and non-government organizations in addressing human trafficking issues.

In closing, the Philippines wishes Botswana continued success in the implementation of its accepted recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

1. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families [↑](#footnote-ref-2)