**PHILIPPINES**

**Human Rights Council**

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

**UPR of the BAHAMAS**

17 January 2018, HRC Chamber

Speaking Time: 2 min

Thank you, Mister President.

The Philippine delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of the Bahamas to the UPR.

The Philippines acknowledges the progress made by the Government of the Bahamas to improve the promotion and protection of human rights since its 2nd cycle UPR, in particular, on its efforts at national transformation through the Vision 2040 National Development Plan of the Bahamas (2015-2040).

My delegation commends the government of the Bahamas for its continuous, demonstrated, and sustained effort in meeting high institutional standards for the elimination of trafficking[[1]](#footnote-2).

The Philippines notes the Bahamas’ independent and impartial judiciary in civil matters, as well as ready public access to the courts for lawsuits aimed at seeking redress for human rights violations. We also acknowledge the country’s independent press and judiciary, as well as the functioning democratic political system.

In this regard, the Philippines recommends that the Government of the Bahamas continue its efforts that would:

* encourage an open climate for civil society that allows NGOs freedom of speech and association without fear of redress; and
* strengthen the effective implementation and enforcement of the country's labor laws.

In closing, the Philippines wishes the Bahamas success in the continued implementation of its accepted recommendations to promote and protect human rights for the good of all.

Thank you, Mr. President.

1. It is to be noted that The Bahamas remained on Tier 1 in the U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report for 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)