**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,**

**On the occasion of the**

**UPR of BARBADOS**

19January 2018, HRC Chamber

Speaking time: 2 min

Mister Vice-President,

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

The Philippines acknowledges the progress made by the Government of Barbados to improve the promotion and protection of human rights since the 2nd UPR cycle. In particular, the various measures implemented to promote the rights of children and protect them from instances of abuse.

My delegation notes the developments in Barbados that promote an independent press, effective judiciary, and functioning democratic political system that collectively promote freedom of speech and the press.

We also acknowledge the government’s efforts to maintain an enabling open environment for domestic and international human rights groups to investigate findings on human rights cases.

The Philippines commends Barbados for upholding an environment where workers' rights are generally respected and for having in place the appropriate employment rights legislation.

The Philippines submits to Barbados the following recommendations:

* take further steps for the stronger implementation of legislation that prohibits and penalizes abuse against women and children as well as domestic violence;
* approve and implement the National Policy on Gender soon; and
* address trafficking in persons, particularly through providing adequate resources to government agencies for training and furthering anti-trafficking efforts, as well as providing sufficient resources for victim care[[1]](#footnote-2).

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

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

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