**PHILIPPINES**

**Human Rights Council**

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

**To be 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 MONTENEGRO**

22January 2018, HRC Chamber

Speaking time: 1 min 40

Thank you Madame Vice-President.

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

My delegation acknowledges the importance that Montenegro attaches to the protection of human rights and its processes, including the UPR, as shown by its submission of the mid-term report in 2015.

The Philippines notes the establishment of an institutional framework, including the passage of laws, that the government of Montenegro has undertaken to strengthen policies and mechanisms to fulfill Montenegro’s commitments to human rights and ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of its people.

As the government of Montenegro carries out its mandate, the Philippines wishes to submit the following recommendations:

* further promote the rights of women by spreading public awareness on sexual harassment and the need to respect women’s rights and welfare;
* strengthen efforts to address the plight of refugees by providing durable solutions; and
* facilitate the processing of and obtaining necessary documentation, such as civil registration papers, for thousands of stateless persons in the country.

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

Thank you, Madame Vice-President.