 **PHILIPPINES**

33rd Working Group Session on the Universal Periodic Review

**UPR OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

Salle XX, Palais des Nations

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Speaking Time: 1 min. 10 sec.

Speaking Order: 97 of 105

Thank you, Mister President.

The Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to this UPR session.

Our delegation is pleased to note the policy measures put in place by the government to further realize women’s rights and parity. We are encouraged by the adoption of an action plan to combat sexual violence by the DRC’s Armed Forces and the National Police, and acknowledges the government’s efforts which led to its removal from the list of countries identified as using children in armed conflict.

In a constructive spirit, the Philippines presents the following recommendations:

1. Continue developing and implementing programs and projects to improve youth employment;
2. Step up efforts in training duty bearers on the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
3. Intensify the implementation of policies and programs to combat sexual violence particularly in conflict situations, and strengthen measures for victim protection; and
4. Expedite the finalization of the action plan to combat trafficking in persons and provide for its immediate implementation.

The Philippines wishes the Democratic Republic of the Congo a successful review.

Thank you, Mister President. **END**