**PHILIPPINES**

**Human Rights Council**

**35th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

21 January 2020, Salle XX, Palais des Nations

**LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

Speaking Time: 1 min. 15 sec.

Speaking Order: 45 of 93

Thank you, Madam President.

The Philippines warmly welcomes the delegation of Lao PDR to this UPR session.

My delegation acknowledges the progress made by the government in implementing the UPR recommendations from the last cycle.

We commend Lao PDR for the advances made in the area of development and poverty reduction.

We are pleased to note the adoption of policy measures and programs on strengthening basic education and healthcare, among others.

In a constructive spirit, the Philippines recommends the following:

1. Further intensify its efforts on human rights education and capacity-building program for duty bearers and stakeholders;
2. Continue to enhance measures and programs to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children;
3. Continue to implement measures to further strengthen the political participation of women; and
4. Further enhance the access to social services by vulnerable sectors including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, among others.

We wish our fellow ASEAN member, Lao PDR, every success in this review cycle.

Thank you, Madam President. ***END.***