**PHILIPPINES**

**Human Rights Council**

**36th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

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**PANAMA**

Speaking Time: 1 min 40 sec

Speaking Order: 13 of 68

Thank you, Chair.

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

We wish to acknowledge the efforts made by the government to strengthen legislation and institutions to meet the goals and targets set forth in the 2030 Agenda.

We also welcome the concrete measures taken to further advance the economic, social, and cultural rights, especially in the areas of health, education, employment as well as in the advancing the protection of vulnerable groups.

In a constructive spirit, the Philippines recommends the following:

1. Take further steps to ensure the greater participation of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women, in decision-making processes in all matters affecting them;
2. Redouble efforts in facilitating access to education especially by indigenous children;
3. Step up efforts in undertaking prompt and impartial investigation and prosecution of cases on violence against women and children;
4. Consider ratifying the ICRMW - the Migrant Workers Convention - and the ILO Convention no. 189.

We wish Panama every success in implementing all its accepted recommendations.

Thank you, Chair. ***END****.*