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**STATEMENT
VICE MINISTER CIRIACO A. LAGUNZAD III
Department of Labor and Employment
PHILIPPINES**

POINTABLE 2: Addressing drivers of migration, particularly large movement

**UN HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS
19 September 2016,
UN Headquarters, New York**

Thank you, Mr/ Madame Co-Chairs.

The Philippines congratulates the President of the UN General Assembly for convening

at historic low of 5.4%, and our underemployment rate at 17.3%. Indeed, our growing economy has created more and better jobs in the country.

the top of his Change Agenda for the Philippines. This includes discussions to achieve peace across the nation, with rebel groups such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF). Incidentally, the present Secretary of Labor, Mr. Silvestro Bello III, is also now the head of the government panel negotiating with CPP-NPA-NDF. This gives an important dimension to the peace process on the issue of

Our strategic investment in skills training has produced more graduates with competitive

skills for employment. We have also started the *Student Difference* that

shortens school-to-work transition for our youth by providing them with access to

technical and life skills training demanded by employers.

We have seen and felt the value of partnership and cooperation in advancing the agenda of migration and development. And this we continue to pursue with other

international bodies and regional consultative processes.

~~Key knowledge gaps that should be addressed regarding migration and steps to~~