**STATEMENT BY BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**Review of Philippines**

**27th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Geneva, 8 May 2017**

Mr. President,

Brunei Darussalam extends its warm wishes to Menardo I. Guevarra, Senior Deputy Executive Secretary, Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and the delegation of the Philippines.

We note the various efforts made by the Government of the Philippines to expand and enhance access to quality education through the enactment of the several laws. We particularly welcome the passage of the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 which upholds the right of every Filipino to Kindergarten plus 12 years of quality basic education. The enactment of the Kinder Act in 2012 has also seen a rise in the kinder gross enrolment, with latest figures at 93.43%.

Brunei Darussalam recommends that the Philippines continue to intensify efforts to further increase the enrolment of children into schools.

Philippines has also made commendable progress in women empowerment and promoting gender equality. Consequently, it ranked amongst one of the world's most gender-equal society according to the Global Gender Gap Report in 2016. Furthermore, significant increase in its budget towards Gender and Development as well as the Framework Plan for Women has reinforced its Magna Carta for Women.

We thus recommend that the Philippines continue its work to strengthen its policies to further promote gender equality and eliminate discrimination and violence against women.

As a fellow member and current Chair of ASEAN, Brunei Darussalam would like to acknowledge the active role the Philippines has played in our region, especially in the promotion and protection of human rights. We wish them every success in the UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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