**UPR – Republic of the Philippines – 8 May 2017**

**STATEMENT by BULGARIA**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Bulgaria warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of the Republic of the Philippines.

Bulgaria commends the Philippines for the efforts of reducing poverty and raising millions of people out of poverty via its robust economic growth in the last decade.

Bulgaria appreciates that, in accordance with a recommendation that had enjoyed the support of the Philippines, the State had acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. At the same time, we share the concern of the United Nations country team about the means adopted in the Government’s anti-drug campaign which had led to alleged “drug users and pushers” being killed.

Bulgaria would like to make the following **recommendations**:

1. To take due measures to **prevent** extrajudicial killings in the country and **grant access** to the UN Special Rapporteurs on Summary Executions and the Right to Health for impartial and credible investigations;
2. To **refrain** from reintroducing the death penalty and from lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility;

Thank you!