**Universal Periodic Review, 27th session**

**Human Rights Council**

**UPR of Philippines, 8 May 2017**

**Intervention by Denmark**

*[Check against delivery]*

Mr. President,

Denmark warmly welcomes the Philippines’ delegation.

Denmark welcomes president Duterte’s clearly stated commitment to human rights and warnings against any abuse of authority. At the same time, we are concerned that some recent initiatives to combat crime, including as part of the “war on drugs”, risk leading to impunity and violation of human rights.

Denmark notes with serious concern the high number of attacks on human rights defenders. Protection of civil society is of critical importance for the protection of human rights and democratic dialogue. A national law against enforced disappearance is already in effect.

*Denmark recommends that the Philippines combat crimes committed against human rights defenders through prompt, impartial and transparent investigation hereof.*

Denmark welcomes the positive steps taken by the Philippines to narrow the gender gap. Access to contraceptives has notable impact on women’s health, education, work, and standard of living.

*Denmark recommends that the Government of the Philippines ensures full and equal access to modern contraceptives, including in rural and indigenous communities.*

I thank you.