**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SINGAPORE AT THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) OF THE PHILIPPINES AT THE 27TH UPR WORKING GROUP, 8 MAY 2017**

Mr President,

 Singapore warmly welcomes the Philippines delegation to the 27th UPR Working Group.

We commend the commitment and efforts of the Philippine government to pursue social justice, achieve inclusive growth and reduce inequality, in particular for the poor, the marginalized and the most vulnerable.

The plethora of initiatives such as the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Program and the Sustainable Livelihood Program, provide the foundation to build an inclusive society with a competitive economy.

We **recommend** that the government ensure that these social policies continue to be adequately financed, and be more targeted in their delivery, so that assistance can reach those most in need across the country.

We also **recommend** that the government deepen its engagement and collaboration with communities in the implementation and management of development projects and social policies. This will ensure better buy-in and social outcomes for the affected communities.

Mr President,

Singapore and the Philippines have very warm and longstanding relations. Our people-to-people and economic ties are very strong. We are also working closely with the Philippines, as ASEAN Chair, to further strengthen ASEAN for the benefit of our peoples.

We wish the Philippines every success in its quest to uplift their people’s welfare through a “human approach to development and governance”.

 Thank you Mr President.

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