**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 27th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of the Philippines**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes the Philippines’ ongoing commitment to development and efforts to reduce poverty through the 0 to 10-Point Socioeconomic Agenda.

Australia understands the challenges faced by the Philippines in tackling illicit drug use. Australia, as a close regional partner, is providing support to the World Health Organization to help the Philippine Government develop evidence- and rights-based rehabilitation programs.

Australia is however deeply concerned about ongoing reports of extrajudicial killings associated with the so-called ‘war on drugs’, noting credible allegations of involvement by elements of the Philippine National Police. **Australia recommends that the Philippine Government thoroughly investigate alleged extrajudicial killings and ensure accountability.**

Recognising the integral role that national human rights institutions play in promoting and protecting human rights, **Australia recommends the Philippines provide adequate resourcing to the Commission on Human Rights to allow it to investigate alleged extrajudicial killings.**

**Australia recommends that, consistent with the Philippines’ obligations as a State Party to the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Philippines not reintroduce the death penalty.**

Australia welcomes progress on gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, in particular efforts to strengthen implementation of reproductive health legislation to progressively realise sexual and reproductive health rights. **Australia recommends that the Philippines consolidate its recent progress through implementation of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation covering sex and sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status.**