

**27th Session of the UPR Working Group
Review of the Philippines**

8 May 2017

Statement by AUSTRIA

Thank you, Mr. President.

Austria welcomes H.E. and the delegation of the Philippines to the UPR and thanks them for their presentation.

We commend the Government for its efforts in the implementation of recommendations received during its last review, including the measures taken towards the full implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act as a means to modern family planning and subsequently to poverty reduction.

Austria is, however, concerned about actions taken by the government towards the re-introduction of the death penalty and reports of increasing numbers of extra-judicial killings and serious human rights violations, including torture and ill-treatment, in connection with but not limited to the Philippines' commitment to fighting drug related crimes.

We would like to draw particular attention to potential devastating effect on children in the latter, [being both victims of drug lords who forcefully engage them in the business as well as victims of collateral damage in shooting incidents or orphans of killed suspects unprovided for,] and underline the importance of respect for children's rights to care, health and protection from violence in view of the Philippine's commitments as signatory to the CRC.

Austria would like to offer the following recommendations:

1. To effectively fight impunity by investigation of all cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, committed by the police, the armed forces or non-state actors, and to bring all perpetrators to justice.
2. To take all necessary measures to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in detention facilities, including through the provision of legal safeguards for detainees; effective investigations into allegations of torture; and the prosecution and sentencing of perpetrators.
3. To effectively implement the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (2006) and to not pass legislation lowering the minimum age for criminal responsibility (MACR) from 15 years to 9 years to avoid further criminalization of minor children and their ill-treatment and abuse in detention facilities.