 **PHILIPPINES**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**44th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

07 November 2023, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

**REVIEW OF COLOMBIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Philippines welcomes the esteemed delegation of Colombia and commends the government for its strong commitment to peacebuilding, noting the strides made in the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement through its “total peace” policy.

We acknowledge the legal and institutional measures adopted, including gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding processes as well as rural and agricultural reforms to address the root causes of the internal armed conflict.

 In a constructive spirit, we recommend the following:

1. Further expand access to justice and reparations for victims of the armed conflict, particularly women and Indigenous peoples;
2. Enhance the implementation of measures to combat the sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children, especially in the context of the armed conflict; and
3. Step up efforts to prevent the recruitment and use of children by armed groups.

As a country similarly embarking on a journey to just and lasting peace, the Philippines is pleased to add its voice of support to the Government of Colombia as it resolutely pursues peace and development for its people.

 Lastly, the Philippines wishes Colombia a successful review.

Thank you, Mr. Chair. END