 **PHILIPPINES**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

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

15 November 2023, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

**REVIEW OF CUBA**

*Speaking time: 50 seconds*

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Philippines warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Cuba headed by H.E. Mr. Bruno Rodriguez PARILLA, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

 The Philippines welcomes the adoption of the new constitution in 2019 that strengthened and expanded the legal framework for the protection and promotion of human rights, with the inclusion of the rights to information, food, water, housing, and a balanced and healthy environment.

We commend Cuba’s longstanding progressive policies in such areas as public health, education, gender equality, and children’s rights.

To build on the progress achieved, the Philippines, in the spirit of friendship and constructive dialogue, offers the following recommendations:

1. continue to undertake legislative reforms to harmonize laws with the expanded rights and guarantees embodied in the new constitution; and
2. sustain juvenile justice system reforms to ensure the humane treatment of children in conflict with the law in accordance with the principle of the best interest of the child.

The Philippines wishes Cuba a successful review. Thank you. **END**