

**Statement delivered by Sumbue ANTAS,**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva**

**41**st **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of the Philippines**

14.11.2022

Thank you, Mr. President.

Vanuatu welcomes the delegation of the Philippines to this review and thanks them for their insightful presentation.

In the spirit of open and constructive dialogue Vanuatu wishes to make the following recommendations to the Philippines:

1. strengthen the government’s commitment to take ambitious action to address climate change by implementing more inclusive and accessible disaster risk reduction strategies, in particular to protect vulnerable people;
2. Continue to strengthen programmes and policies to ensure equitable access to food and safe drinking water, with special attention to people with disabilities;
3. Improve the protection and promotion of the rights of the human rights defenders

Vanuatu wishes the Philippines a successful review.

I thank you