**41st session of the Universal Periodic Review
Review of the Philippines**

14 November 2022

**Statement by Austria**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Austria welcomes 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.

Austria however remains deeply concerned about the systematic intimidation and harassment of civil society activists; an increased crackdown on media freedom and journalists; or the pervasive culture of impunity for human rights violations.

The so-called ‘war on drugs’, has caused widespread, systematic and grave human rights violations – such as extrajudicial executions - mainly among urban poor people, including children.

Despite Constitutional guarantees on freedom of speech and media freedom, provisions of the Cybercrime Prevention Act and the criminalization of libel restrict the right to freedom of expression in the Philippines.

Austria also regrets the withdrawal of the Philippines from the Rome Statute of the ICC.

We offer the following recommendations:

* Ensure the signing into law of the Human Rights Defenders Protection Bill
* Amend the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 to conform with international human rights standards
* Provide a concrete support program for children neglected as a result of their parents’ detention or deaths due to the war on drugs as well as adequate compensation for victims
* Re-accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC

I thank you.