**Intervention by Cyprus**

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**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

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**THE PHILIPPINES**

Mr. President,

Cyprus welcomes the participation of the Filipino delegation and for the presentation of its national report.

Cyprus recognizes the progress made by The Philippines since the last UPR cycle, by furthering the rights of women and children, combating human trafficking, efforts to ensuring food security and proper nutrition, as well as the adoption of the Universal Health Care Law in 2019.

In parallel, our delegation wishes to encourage the Philippines to refrain from lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility, from reinstating the death penalty, and to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Cyprus has the following recommendations:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR;
2. Conduct back-to-school campaigns and advocacy for education in coordination with local councils for the protection of children;
3. Enforce and enhance legal provisions combating discrimination against women and girls.

Thank you.