UPR NATIONAL STATEMENT PHILIPPINES

Thank you Mr. President,

Greece would like to warmly welcome the delegation of Philippines to the 4th UPR cycle.

We would like to especially commend the country’s efforts to combat human trafficking in the online landscape, through the enaction of the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act. We would also like to give special mention to the government’s launch of the National Action Plan on Fair and Ethical Recruitment, which provided enhanced employment opportunities to people of migrant backgrounds.

Greece would like to recommend that the Philippines:

1) Take urgent measures to address the systematic crackdown of media freedom, under the guise of anti-terrorism policies

2) Take immediate action to publicly condemn at the highest levels, the use of excessive and disproportionate force by security forces in response to protests and ensure the existence of efficient accountability mechanisms to bring offenders into justice

3) Take into account calls for protection of human rights defenders within the country, including conducting immediate and impartial investigations into cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation of such individuals

I thank you.