**Statement by Romania**

**The 41st session of the UPR Working Group: Review of The Philippines**

**November 14th, 2022**

Mr. President,

Romania welcomes The Philippines’s delegation and its UPR report.

While commending its efforts in advancing human rights protection, including through the Third National Human Rights Action Plan, and with regard to women representation in public life and migrant workers, Romania would like to recommend The Philippines to:

1. Draft and adopt the next National Human Rights Action Plan with the meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders while continuing to effectively contribute to the implementation of the UN Joint Programme on Human Rights (2021-2024);
2. Take measures to protect women and children from domestic violence while ensuring access to multiple forms of reporting of these cases, information about their rights and available remedies;
3. Implement the recently adopted anti-trafficking and anti-online sexual abuse or exploitation laws;
4. Replace the punitive approach of “war on drugs” policy with one of control in line with ICCPR and prioritize accountability for human rights violations committed in this context, as well as full redress for victims and their families;
5. Adopt the Human Rights Defenders/HRD Bill to protect HRDs and journalists from reprisals including red-tagging practice and killings.

We wish The Philippines’s delegation a successful outcome of the UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President!