 **PHILIPPINES**

Human Rights Council

**42nd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF JAPAN**

31 January 2023

**Speaking time: 01 minute and 00 seconds**

Thank you, Mme. Vice-President.

The Philippines welcomes the esteemed delegation of Japan and commends the government for progress in the implementation of supported recommendations from the last UPR, particularly on equal access to health and education and upholding the rights of persons with disabilities.

We also laud the comprehensive information and education campaign being undertaken to raise human rights awareness.

The Philippines, as a friend and partner of Japan, recommends the following:

1. Step up efforts to establish a national human rights institution with express mandate to act on complaints of human rights violations in line with the Paris Principles;
2. Effectively enforce the Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation of 2022 in order to combat child pornography and other forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, including those committed in the digital sphere; and
3. Further enhance efforts to combat gender-based violence and all forms of discrimination, including those directed against migrants, women and minorities, by enacting relevant laws, among other measures.

The Philippines wishes Japan all the success in this review process.

Thank you. **END.**