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| **UN Human Rights Council**  **UPR 27th session** |  |
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**Statement by Sweden in the interactive dialogue on Philippines**

(1 min 05 secs)

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to welcome the delegation of the Philippines.

**Sweden recommends the Government of the Philippines:**

1. To ensure that extrajudicial killings are properly investigated and that the persons responsible are held to account in accordance with due process and the rule of law.
2. To ensure that Executive Order No. 12 pertaining to the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act (2012) is fully implemented in order to meet the needs for modern family planning and to secure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.
3. To amend the age of sexual consent from 12 years to 16 years.
4. To maintain the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR) and not lower it.

Our recommendations are made on the basis of the following considerations:

Philippine National Police data show that 2555 persons were killed by the police between July 2016 and January 2017 in the so called “war on drugs”. In the same period, several thousand more people were killed by unknown armed persons in allegedly drug related incidents, according to news media and civil society.

In 2012, the CEDAW Committee conducted a special inquiry in the Philippines and found the Government liable of “grave and systematic” reproductive rights violations.

In 2016 the CEDAW Committee reiterated its concern.

7.3 million women in the Philippines have an unmet need for modern contraceptives, as estimated by 2016 government data.

The existing Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health law of 2012 does not allow minors below 18 to access modern family planning without parental consent.

In parallel, we witness a worrying increase in HIV prevalence in the 15-24 year age group

The Philippines has the lowest legal age of sexual consent in the world (12 years) which contributes to problems with foreign sex tourism and encourages human trafficking of children into the sex industry.

In the Philippines, 1 in 4 children experience some form of sexual violence, 3 in 5 children experience violence at home, and 4 in 5 LGBTI children experience physical violence.

Under the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR) is set at 15 years old. As of September 2016, several bills have been filed in Congress to lower the MACR from 15 years to 9 years old.

I thank you Mr. President.