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## 36th Session of the Human Rights Council

Philippines UPR

22nd September 2017

Speaker: Romina Morán

Thank you Mr. President,

RADDHO welcomes the delegation of the Philippines and congratulates its commitment on the improvement of their human rights situation, particularly protecting vulnerable groups, combating human trafficking and ensuring the rule of law.

In the context of a country where illegal drugs, violent crime and poverty mix together, the Government's campaign against illegal drugs has been widely quoted by the media as a controversial measure; it is for this reason that, firstly, RADDHO calls upon the Philippines to bring the methods used to fight against the use of illegal drugs in the country in accordance with international best practices.

RADDHO urges the Philippines to maintain the abolition of the death penalty in line with its obligations under the Second Optional Protocol to the International Convenant on Civil and Political Rights and strengthen the protection of children's rights, maintaining a minimum age of 15 years for criminal liability and raising the age of sexual consent to 16 years.

The prevention and eradication of all forms of sexual violence and human trafficking are some of the biggest problems that women and children continue to face, along with the supremacy of the husband's decisions over a female's.

Additionally, RADDHO demands the Philippines to take all necessary measures to promote the enjoyment of freedom of expression, religion and civil liberties. Likewise, we exhort the country to continue the efforts to improve education and to put an end to extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, illegal arrests and acts of torture.

Finally, RADDHO invites the Philippines to demilitarize the ancestral lands of indigenous peoples and to improve the conditions of access to health and education.

Thank you