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**Statement by Malaysia  
Review of Finland  
13<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council  
21 May – 4 June 2012**

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Thank you Madam President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Finland led by H.E. \_\_\_\_\_ and his delegation and we thank the delegation for their comprehensive and detailed presentation.

Madam President,

2. We are encouraged to observe that Finland has taken initial steps to introduce a reform of the relevant non-discrimination legislation with the objective of strengthening non-discrimination protection through broadening the parameters of the relevant legislation to encompass all grounds of discrimination.

3. My delegation however, notes that Finland continues to face challenges in combating racism, intolerance and xenophobia which is evident by an increase in incidents of racist and xenophobic incidents and the growing xenophobic attitudes in its society.

4. Furthermore, in relation to the obligation under CEDAW to overcome the negative perceptions of women and stereotyping of their roles within the society, my delegation is concerned that the media and advertising in Finland are increasingly becoming pornographic in nature and that the over-sexualized depiction of women reinforces the existing stereotypes of women as sex objects, and girls' low self-esteem.

In concluding Madam President,

5. My delegation proposes the following two recommendations for the consideration of Finland:

5.1 to take steps to ensure by both legislative and non-legislative measures, including initiatives for the promotion of multiculturalism, that all religions and faiths are protected, so stop the escalation of hatred among the people of different religions and faiths, based on the tenets of understanding, mutual acceptance and respect; and

5.2 to undertake concrete measures to ensure that the media production and coverage are non-discriminatory and promote positive images of girl and women.

I thank you, Madam President.

**GENEVA**

**23 May 2012**