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STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
Review of Guatemala
14th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council
22 October – 5 November 2012

Thank you Madam President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of Guatemala led by H.E. _____ to the 14th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council. We thank the Guatemalan delegation for the detailed presentation of its national report.

2. Malaysia acknowledges the continuous advancements in the field of human rights by Guatemala since its first review in 2008. Malaysia applauds Guatemala for its efforts in this regard, as well as its inclusive approach towards the UPR process through broad-based consultations with all the relevant stakeholders as highlighted in its national report. We are pleased to note that significant progress has been made on the implementation of the accepted recommendations, which include the strengthening of Guatemala's legal framework through domestic legislation, the establishment of new national agencies and the adoption of various national policies and programmes for the protection and promotion of human rights in the country.

3. My delegation is encouraged by Guatemala's move to ratify and accede to a number of international human rights instruments. We are further encouraged that Guatemala has taken an assertive approach in the prevention of violence against women; the improvement of the living conditions of the poor and the indigent; and the strengthening of legislation to protect and promote the rights of children, adolescents and indigenous people. The Government has also developed and organised various programmes for human rights training and awareness for its public officials.

4. We are also appreciative that Guatemala has acknowledged in its national report that it faces several challenges in its efforts to advance the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

5. In the spirit of engagement, my delegation would like to make the following recommendations to Guatemala for its consideration:

5.1 to intensify its efforts on the improvement of mechanisms to further protect the rights of children and the advancement of the economic well-being and standard of living of the poor; and

5.2 to provide adequate funding and adopting the necessary measures for the effective implementation of the the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that Guatemala had ratified in 2009.

I thank you, Madam President.

GENEVA

24 October 2012