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

Thank you Madam President,

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of Switzerland led by H.E. _____ to the 14th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council. We thank the Swiss delegation for their presentation of its national report.

2. My delegation acknowledges Switzerland's achievements and strong commitments in upholding and promoting human rights and humanitarian principles. We also acknowledge Switzerland's efforts in adopting a wide range of legislative measures, policies and programmes to strengthen gender equality and women's rights, and to combat violence against women and trafficking in persons, particularly women and children.

3. However, my delegation notes with concern that despite Switzerland's efforts to reinforce its existing mechanisms, it still faces the challenges of racism, intolerance and xenophobic attitudes against non-citizens and other minorities which appears to be on the rise in the country.

4. In this regard, my delegation would like to propose the following three recommendations for the consideration of Switzerland:

- 4.1. to take more effective measures to combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia against minority groups in the country, in particular the Muslims;
- 4.2. to intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons and to provide adequate resources and services in relation to those efforts; and
- 4.3. to increase efforts to develop the Swiss Resource Centre for Human Rights into a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.

I thank you, Madam President.

GENEVA
29 October 2012