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Counsellor

STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
Review of Serbia
15th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council
21 January – 1 February 2013

Thank you Mr. President,

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of Serbia, led by H.E. Gordana Stamenic, to the 15th Session of the UPR Working Group and thank them for the presentation of its national report.

2. My delegation notes that Serbia has made significant effort in implementing recommendations emanating from its first UPR review, particularly on the strengthening its domestic and institutional framework, including judicial reforms. Malaysia also notes that progress have been made in the areas of women's participation in high-level decision-making process, the fight against domestic violence and the rights of persons with disabilities.

3. While Serbia has made progress in the promotion and protection of human rights of its people, my delegation also notes that the country is still faced with some challenges such as the full integration of its minority groups into society. We also share the concern of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the high number of offences related to the sale of children; economic and sexual exploitation of children; child prostitution and child pornography in Serbia.

4. In the spirit of constructive engagement and cooperation, my delegation would like to make the following two recommendations for the consideration of Serbia:

4.1. to incorporate an explicit definition of the crime of sale of children into its Penal Code and draft Child Act; and

- 4.2. to increase its efforts in ensuring the protection of children from violence in line with its 2008 National Strategy for Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence and 2010 Action Plan.

I thank you, Mr. President.

GENEVA
30 January 2013