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STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
Review of Burkina Faso
16th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council
22 April – 3 May 2013

Thank you Mr. President,

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of Burkina Faso, led by H.E. Ms. Julie Prudence Somda-Nigna, to the 16th Session of the UPR Working Group and we thank them for the presentation of its national report.

2. My delegation notes positively the significant progress made by Burkina Faso in the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly on the strengthening of its domestic legislative and institutional framework since its first UPR review.

3. My delegation is pleased to note that Burkina Faso had accepted our recommendations that were made during its first review namely on the combating violence against women and trafficking in girls and women for sexual exploitation. We note that, as highlighted in its national report, significant progress has been made in those areas. These include the establishment of safe houses for victims of social exclusion, the implementation of the action plan against human trafficking and the organising of public awareness-raising campaigns on those issues.

4. Nevertheless, Malaysia also recognises that Burkina Faso is still faced with challenges and difficulties that could hinder the full enjoyment and free exercise of human rights in the country. Those challenges include the issues of illiteracy and awareness regarding human rights instruments amongst the majority of the population.

5. In this regard, in the spirit of constructive engagement and cooperation, my delegation would like to make the following two recommendations for the consideration of Burkina Faso:

- 5.1. to continue its positive approach in the field of education including ensuring free primary and post-primary education as well as incorporating human rights education in the school curricula; and
- 5.2. to continue its efforts in promoting gender equality including implementing its National Gender Policy, as recommended by CEDAW, which is aimed at changing behaviour and encouraging equality between men and women in all areas of socioeconomic life and access to resources.

I thank you, Mr. President.

GENEVA
22 April 2013