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Counselor

**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA**  
**Review of Tuvalu**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council**  
**22 April – 3 May 2013**

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Thank you Mr. President,

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of Tuvalu, led by H.E. Ms Ese Apineta, to the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group and we thank them for the presentation of its national report.

2. My delegation welcomes the consultative approach adopted by Tuvalu in the preparation of its national report, which includes the holding of a workshop facilitated by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Malaysia also notes that progress has been made since Tuvalu's first UPR review, particularly on the inclusion of human rights standards in its national legislation.

3. Malaysia also notes positively the on-going efforts by Tuvalu in the area of gender mainstreaming through its National Women Policy which is aimed at increasing women's participation in public life, economic activities and ensuring equal access to education and training, among others. Further, my delegation also observes that progress has been made in the areas of youth development, inclusive education and persons with disabilities through the appropriate national policy and budgetary provisions.

4. While efforts and progress have been made by Tuvalu in the promotion and protection of human rights, my delegation notes that challenges still remain which could hinder the full enjoyment of human rights in the country, particularly due to the lack of capacity and financial resources. In this regard, Malaysia hopes that the international community, including UN agencies and donors, would heed Tuvalu's call to assist the country in further fulfilling its human rights obligations to its citizens through technical and financial assistance.

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

- 5.1. to continue its efforts in promoting gender equality including expanding the role of women in its national development; and

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- 5.2. to continue its positive approach with regard to the promotion of human rights through its education system.

I thank you, Mr. President.

**GENEVA**  
**24 April 2013**