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STATEMENT BY BRUNEI DARUSSALAM  
DURING THE REVIEW OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE 16<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE WORKING  
GROUP OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

24 APRIL 2013

Palais des Nations, Geneva

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Thank you Mr President,

Brunei Darussalam would like to thank the delegation of Uzbekistan led by H.E. Mr. Akmal Saidov, Chairman of National Human Rights Centre for his comprehensive presentation.

Brunei Darussalam congratulates Uzbekistan on conducting broad and inclusive consultations with all relevant stakeholders in their preparation of its National Report for this second cycle. Brunei Darussalam appreciates Uzbekistan's commitment towards improving the situation of human rights in the country, particularly through the implementation of its various national plans of action in a number of areas.

We are encouraged by Uzbekistan's efforts in ensuring the protection of children's rights. We note the legislative framework in place and the State institutions which have been established to ensure their rights. We also welcome the increased importance on education given by Uzbekistan, as seen through its 12-year education programme for all children. We therefore, encourage Uzbekistan to continue promoting the rights of the child, particularly in ensuring the right to education for all its young citizens.

We are further encouraged by the steps taken to empower and advance the interest of women. We welcome Uzbekistan's continuing efforts in safeguarding women's rights, including measures to prevent the trafficking of women.

Finally, Brunei Darussalam appreciates the Government of Uzbekistan's cooperation with the UN and its mechanisms as well as other relevant bodies, in its commitment towards the promotion and protection of human rights.

Thank you.