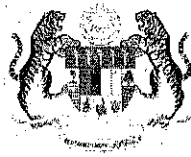


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STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
Review of Belize
17th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council
21 October – 1 November 2013

Thank you Mr. President,

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of Belize, led by H.E. Ms. Judith Alpuche, to the 17th Session of the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the presentation of its national report.

2. My delegation notes that there has been progress towards the mainstreaming of human rights within the national policy framework in Belize. Among the commendable progress made by Belize since its first UPR, include the promotion and protection of rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons. Significant efforts have also been made in education sector that received high allocation in Belize's national budget.

3. We also appreciate Belize's frankness in identifying core challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights of its citizens, particularly on poverty eradication. In this regard, we welcome the Government of Belize's commitment to eliminate poverty in the country as it could pose a serious challenge to the full enjoyment of human rights of the people of Belize.

4. Therefore, in the spirit of constructive engagement, my delegation would like to make the following **two** recommendations for the consideration of Belize:

4.1. to re-double its efforts in reducing and eliminating the incidence of poverty, particularly in the impoverished areas, in line with its revised National Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action; and

4.2. to continue its efforts in improving the quality of education at all levels as well as in increasing the student's enrolment in secondary education.

I thank you, Mr. President.

GENEVA
28 October 2013