**17th SESSION OF UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP**

 [21 October – 1 November 2013]

**UPR OF Malaysia– INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE**

[24 October 2013]

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

**Madam Vice-President,**

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Malaysia led by Deputy SG Dato' Ho May Yong. We thank the delegation for its National Report and commend it for implementation of recommendations made during the first UPR.

2. We welcome Malaysia’s commitment to continue widening democratic space and upholding human rights, especially given the challenges of complex ethnic and cultural diversities. We commend its achievements in providing affordable housing, reducing poverty and attaining the MDG target well ahead of schedule. We appreciate steps taken by Malaysia to widen access to education, and welcome the National Education Blueprint that outlines a transformation programme for Malaysia’s education system.

4. We also commend steps taken by Malaysia towards enhancement of the rights of women and children, and note in this regard the National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women. We are encouraged by Malaysia’s withdrawal of its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of Children and its accession to the two optional protocols.

5. We appreciate the steps taken by Malaysia to protect the human rights of migrant workers. In this regard, we take positive note of the comprehensive Foreign Workers Registration Programme aimed at updating the foreign workforce database with biometric data, and also the statutory minimum wages promulgated recently.

6. India recommends that Malaysia consider taking necessary steps to ensure that social housing programmes benefit the targeted groups in urban areas, and also intensify efforts to eradicate poverty among the Orang Asli in Sabah and Sarawak.

We wish the delegation of Malaysia the very best.

Thank you, Madam Vice-President.

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