

**STATEMENT BY BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
DURING THE REVIEW OF SAUDI ARABIA AT THE
17TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**21 OCTOBER 2013
Palais des Nations, Geneva**

Thank you Mr President,

Brunei Darussalam would like to thank the delegation of Saudi Arabia led by His Excellency Mr Bandar bin Mohammed Al-Aiban, Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, for his presentation of its national report.

We congratulate Saudi Arabia on conducting broad consultations involving all relevant stakeholders in the preparation of its national report.

Brunei Darussalam appreciates Saudi Arabia's commitment towards the promotion and protection of human rights for its people. We particularly welcome the efforts made to strengthen children's rights through its established mechanism such as the Child Protection Act. We further welcome the recently passed "Protection from Abuse" law which protects all those most vulnerable to violence, particularly women and children, from all forms of abuse. We therefore recommend Saudi Arabia to continue its ongoing efforts to safeguard the rights of women and children.

Brunei Darussalam is encouraged by Saudi Arabia's efforts to promote the lives of its people through ensuring their right to health. We note the measures taken in providing effective maternal health care in efforts to reduce maternal mortality rate. We would recommend Saudi Arabia to continue promoting the right to health of its citizens, particularly maternal and child health services.

We appreciate the number of initiatives Saudi Arabia has made in the international arena in the field of human rights, especially in promoting inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue. Furthermore, as a member of the OIC, Brunei Darussalam commends Saudi Arabia's contribution towards strengthening Islamic solidarity.

Finally, we are pleased to support Saudi Arabia's continued cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms and its commitment in fulfilling its human rights obligations.

Thank you.