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Mohd Hasril
Counsellor

STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
Review of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
18th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council
27 January – 7 February 2014

Thank you Mr. President,

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the 18th Session of the UPR Working Group and thank them for the presentation of its national report.

2. My delegation notes with appreciation the updates on the progress made by Macedonia in the promotion and protection of human rights since its first review. My delegation also notes positively the various legislative and institutional measures undertaken by Macedonia to further promote and protect human rights of its people. Among others, progress has been made in the areas of the empowerment of women, and on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child through the adoption of a revised 2012-2015 National Action Plan on Children's Rights and the 2013-2015 National Action Plan for Prevention and Countering Abuse and Neglect of Children.

3. During Macedonia's first review, Malaysia made a recommendation relating to combating the scourge of prostitution and trafficking of women and girls. We appreciate that our recommendation was accepted, and that progress has been in this area. In this regard, we commend the efforts made by Macedonia to revise and adopt the Standard Operative Procedures for Treatment of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings in 2010, and the Strategy and National Action Plan to fight against the trafficking in persons and illegal migration for the period 2009 to 2012 and for the period 2013 to 2016. Malaysia also notes positively the various trainings organized by Macedonia for its enforcement officials as part of its effort to combat trafficking in persons and prostitution.

4. My delegation further notes the priorities set out by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for the advancement of human rights in the country as stipulated in Part IV of its national report.

5. In the spirit of constructive engagement and cooperation, my delegation would like to recommend the Republic of Macedonia to continue its measures in the fight against the sexual abuse and exploitation of children by strengthening the implementation of its relevant national action plan.

I thank you, Mr. President.

GENEVA
30 January 2014