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STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
Review of Slovakia
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 Slovakia to the 18th Session of the UPR Working Group and thank them for the presentation of their national report.

2. My delegation appreciates the update on the progress made by Slovakia in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country since its first UPR. During Slovakia's first UPR, Malaysia made recommendations related to human rights awareness programme and rights of the minority and vulnerable groups, among others. My delegation note that significant efforts have been made in those areas as highlighted in Slovakia's national report. Progress has also been made in the areas of gender equality and the promotion and protection of the rights of women and children.

3. My delegation notes that there remain challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in Slovakia including the persistence of negative attitudes and prejudices against persons belonging to ethnic minorities. In this regard, my delegation would like to make the following **four** recommendations for the consideration of Slovakia:

- 3.1. **One:** To increase awareness-raising programmes and campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for diversity among its population;
- 3.2. **Two:** To step-up efforts to combat prejudices against ethnic minorities and to improve relations between the general public and minority communities;
- 3.3. **Three:** To investigate and prosecute allegations of all hate speech and political discourse against minorities; and
- 3.4. **Four:** To strengthen the independence and mandate of its National Centre for Human Rights so as to enable it to function in compliance with the Paris Principles.

Thank you, Mr. President.

GENEVA
3 February 2014