

**STATEMENT BY BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
DURING THE REVIEW OF VIET NAM AT THE 18TH SESSION OF
THE WORKING GROUP OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

5 FEBRUARY 2014

PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

Thank you, Mr. President.

The delegation of Brunei Darussalam wish to extend a warm welcome to the delegation of Viet Nam led by His Excellency Mr. Ha Kim Ngoc, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Brunei Darussalam is encouraged by Viet Nam's progress in improving the economic, social and cultural rights of its citizens. We commend efforts made to provide better social welfare for its people and the achievements in hunger alleviation and poverty reduction.

We are further encouraged by Viet Nam's commitment to protect the rights of the vulnerable groups. We particularly welcome its National Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Progress which has positively contributed to improving literacy in women and their participation in the workforce.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam recommends Viet Nam to accelerate the fulfilment of the voluntary commitments it has made as a member of the Council, especially in increasing resources to ensure social security and welfare for its citizens as well as the rights of vulnerable groups.

As a fellow ASEAN member, Brunei Darussalam will continue to work closely with Viet Nam in the promotion and protection of human rights through the various frameworks in ASEAN.

Thank you, Mr President.