



STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
Review of Albania
19th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council
28 April – 9 May 2014

Thank you Mr. President,

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of Albania to the 19th Session of the UPR Working Group. We thank them for the presentation of their national report.

2. My delegation notes the progress made and measures undertaken by Albania in further promoting and protecting human rights in the country as well as on the implementation of the accepted recommendations during its first UPR in 2010. My delegation also notes with appreciation the priorities set by Government in the field of human rights as highlighted in Section five (V) of its national report.

3. During Albania's first UPR, my delegation had provided recommendations related to the issue of combating child trafficking, sexual violence and ill-treatment against women and children and addressing the problem of unemployment particularly in the rural areas. We are pleased to note that our recommendations were accepted by Albania and that progress has been made in those areas. In particular, we note with appreciation on the numerous amendments to the Penal Code to prevent acts of violence against women and the adoption of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Reduction of Gender Based Violence and Domestic Violence 2011-2015 and its Action Plan, as well as the adoption of the Action Plan on the Combat against Trafficking of Children, Victims of Trafficking in 2011. Nevertheless, my delegation notes that challenges remain on the reported issue of the exploitation of children.

4. In the spirit of constructive engagement, my delegation wishes to make the following **three** recommendations for the consideration of Albania:

- 4.1. **One:** To strengthen its measures on the elimination of the economic exploitation of children especially those coming from poor and socially marginalized families;
- 4.2. **Two:** To step-up its efforts in the promotion and protection of the rights of person with disabilities in accordance with its obligation under the CRPD, including on the education of children with disabilities; and
- 4.3. **Three:** To increase awareness-raising programmes and campaigns to promote tolerance and respect for cultural diversity.

Thank you, Mr. President.

GENEVA
28 April 2014