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Mohd Hasril Abd Hamid
Counsellor

STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
Review of Bhutan
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 Bhutan to the 19th Session of the UPR Working Group. We thank them for the presentation of their national report.

2. During Bhutan's first UPR review in 2009, my delegation had made recommendations related to the strengthening of its national institutions and capacities, among others. We are pleased to note that our recommendations were accepted by Bhutan and that progress has been made in those areas.

3. We further note with appreciation the commitment of the Government of Bhutan in upholding the rule of law and the strengthening of democracy in the country. In this regard, my delegation would like to congratulate Bhutan on the landmark political transformation it has undergone in recent years. Bhutan's democratic process has also been further consolidated with the successful conduct of local government elections in 2011 and the second Parliamentary elections in 2013 which saw the election and appointment of the first woman Minister. In light of this positive development, my delegation would like to **recommend** Bhutan to encourage greater participation of women in the political process.

4. We also laud Bhutan's continuous efforts to foster a human rights culture through awareness and education programmes. Significant achievement has also been made in the area of developing child protection intervention and institutionalizing capacity building on child rights.

5. In concluding Mr. President, my delegation would like to wish Bhutan every success in its future endeavours.

Thank you, Mr. President.

GENEVA
30 April 2014