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THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW, NINETEENTH SESSION (28 APRIL-9 MAY 2014) - SECOND CYCLE REVIEW - STATEMENT OF GHANA DELIVERED BY MR EBENEZER APPREKU, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. AND DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE REVIEW OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM HELD ON MONDAY, 2 MAY 2014

I thank you Mr President for giving me the floor.

Ghana appreciates the presence and presentation of the distinguished delegation of Brunei Darussalam and its commitment to the UPR process and wish them success.

Ghana would like to recommend to the Kingdom of Brunei Darussalam to ratify or accede to all the core United Nations human rights instruments listed in the relevant compilation of the OHCHR (A/HRC/WG.6/19/BRN/2 of 12 February 2014) in particular those relating to civil and political rights (ICCPR), economic, social and cultural rights, ICESCR), elimination of racial discrimination (ICERD), torture (the CAT, the OP CAT), rights of women (the OP-CEDAW), and Genocide (The Genocide Convention)

Ghana has set aside its Republic Day (1<sup>st</sup> July) to honour her senior citizens and supports the various UN Resolutions relating to the rights of older persons. Ghana, therefore, applauds Brunei's concern for the elderly as reflected in paragraphs 55 to 57 of its national report. In this context, Ghana recommends that discipline and respect by the youth for the aged should be underscored under Brunei's Care for the Elderly Project bearing in mind that an older person or parent who is abused by a caregiver would still feel humiliated, however much he or she is fed. Caring and maintaining the quality of life of the elderly should thus not be measured in material terms alone.

Mr President,

In their published private letters the famous US Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes., once jovially told his much younger English friend Professor Harold Laski that the younger generation sometimes exhibit 'the inveterate exuberance of youth that tends to equate vision with discovery'. This was when the younger Laski enthusiastically recommended a well written book which Justice Holmes had apparently read decades earlier. It is in this spirit that Ghana would like to recommend to Brunei to endeavour to sustain its Senior Citizens Activity Centre aimed, inter alia, at offering the youth the opportunity to learn from the experience of the elderly or older persons.

I thank you, Mr President