

UPR OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE
INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr. President, India warmly welcomes the delegation of Brunei Darussalam led by The Hon'ble Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, and thanks it for its National Report and presentation made today.

2. We commend the broad ranging reforms undertaken by the Government of Brunei Darussalam since its first UPR to strengthen its efforts for the promotion and protection of the human rights of its citizens and take positive note of the priorities set out in its National Development Plan for 2012-2017 for realising the Brunei Vision 2035.

3. We are encouraged by the progress of Brunei Darussalam in achieving the Millennium Development Goals especially the health related targets and take positive note of initiatives aimed at promoting health and education for all including the Early Childhood Care and Education programme for enhancing holistic development of young children and the Health Blueprint 2011-2015 for promoting healthy lifestyles.

4. We welcome Brunei Darussalam's efforts towards strengthening the family institutions and the Plan of Action on 'Family Institution and Women' for promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of women.

5. We take positive note on the work being done by The Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly and on the on-going exercise to formulate a national legislation on persons with disabilities. In this regard, we recommend Brunei Darussalam to continue its efforts to complete the ratification process for CRPD.

6. We appreciate the steps taken to widen the mandate of National Council on Social Issues for addressing diverse Human Rights issues. We recommend that Brunei Darussalam consider the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles.

7. We welcome Brunei Darussalam joining the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Group of Friends to promote better understanding among different faiths and civilisations and in this spirit encourage the government to revisit recent changes in its criminal law that negatively impact freedom of religious minorities in the country.

8. We wish the delegation of Brunei Darussalam well in its future endeavours.

Thank you, President