

**STATEMENT BY BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
DURING THE REVIEW OF LAO PDR AT THE 21TH SESSION OF
THE WORKING GROUP OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**20 JANUARY 2015
PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA**

Delivered by:

Dato Mahdi Rahman

***Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations
Office and other International Organisations in Geneva***

Mr. President,

I'd like to warmly welcome H.E Mr. Phongsavath Boupha, Minister, ~~Minister of Human Rights~~ and Chairman of National Steering Committee on Human Rights of the Lao PDR, and thank him for the comprehensive briefing.

HEAD OF THE
PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE

Brunei Darussalam commends Lao PDR's inclusive process in the preparation of the national report, through the various consultations, and organised workshops.

We welcomed Lao PDR's reforms in the national education sector which are aimed, among others, at enhancing the human resource development, and improving the level of education service. We also welcomed the emphasis the government has placed on creating opportunities for better access to education for Lao citizens in both urban and rural remote areas. We therefore **recommend** Lao PDR to continue its initiatives in the promotion and protection of the people's rights to education.

Brunei Darussalam is also pleased with the expansion of Lao PDR's public health network which has widened the access to basic healthcare and with better quality. Furthermore, we are encouraged by the implementation of the health insurance for its people as well as free health treatment for children under five in the various districts and healthcare centres. In this regard, Brunei Darussalam **recommends** Lao PDR to continue implementing policies to improve the general health of its population.

Finally, Brunei Darussalam **welcomes** the intention of Lao PDR in running for a seat in the Human Rights Council for 2016-2018 and we'd like to render our support in this regard.

Thank you.