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STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA
Review of Latvia
24th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
of the Human Rights Council,
18 – 29 January 2016

Mr. President,

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of Latvia to the 24th Session of the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the presentation of their report.

2. Malaysia commends Latvia for its overall progress in the promotion and protection of human rights. We note the Government's efforts in promoting gender equality, improving the health of mother and child, tackling domestic violence and protecting persons with disabilities. We further note amendments to the Criminal Law in Latvia and the Government's assistance to victims of human trafficking.

3. We note with concern the authorization of certain annual public gatherings celebrating collaborators with the Nazi armed forces during the Second World War. We urge the Government to monitor and stop any such activity that legitimises Nazism and such violent extremist ideology.

4. We would also like to propose the following **three recommendations** for the consideration of Latvia:

- 4.1 **One:** Promote greater societal integration of minorities within the education system through intercultural, interethnic, and interreligious dialogue;
- 4.2 **Two:** Promote responsible freedom of expression and effectively use the Cyber Security Strategy of Latvia 2014-2018 as a platform to combat hate crimes in the virtual environment; and
- 4.3 **Three:** Promote greater human rights understanding through relevant programmes that inculcate respect, tolerance and intercultural understanding.

Thank you.

GENEVA
26 January 2016