**STATEMENT BY BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**Review of Morocco**

**27th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Geneva, 2 May 2017**

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to warmly welcome the delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco, led by His Excellency Mustapha Ramid, Minister of State for Human Rights, to this UPR Session and thanks His Excellency for the presentation on the progress made by his Government since its last review in 2012.

Brunei Darussalam welcomes the measures taken by Morocco to improve the social protection system of its people. This includes extending social and medical coverage by reforming the Moroccan Retirement Fund and raising the minimum pension to 1,500 dirhams per month as well as the introduction of basic medical cover for students respectively.

As a recommendation, we encourage the Government of Morocco to continue to provide basic medical cover for its people, including the elderly.

Brunei Darussalam highly commends the achievements of the Moroccan Government in strengthening its social policies, particularly in combatting poverty in the country. It is worthy to note that the poverty rate in the country was significantly reduced from 8.9% in 2007 to 4.8% in 2014.

In this regard, we recommend for Morocco to continue to adopt measures to further improve the lives of vulnerable people in the country.

Lastly, Brunei Darussalam has enjoyed warm ties with the Kingdom of Morocco since diplomatic relations were established nearly three decades ago. As a fellow member of the OIC, we would like to wish the Government of Morocco every success in this third cycle of the UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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