

**Statement by Mr. Syed Edwan Anwar, Minister Counselor**

**Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations Office at Geneva**

**and other International Organisations,**

**Review of Switzerland**

**28th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council**

**6 – 17 November 2017**

Mr. President.

Malaysia welcomes the delegation of Switzerland and we thank them for presentation of their national report.

1. Malaysia is pleased that in July of this year, the Swiss Federal Council has begun consultations on the draft legislation which would reconstitute the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights as a NHRI in conformity with the Paris Principles. As a long-standing recommendation of Malaysia to Switzerland, we are pleased with this development and encourage Switzerland to redouble its efforts to ensure that a Swiss NHRI is duly established as part of wider efforts to protect and promote human rights in the country.
2. We also note that the Swiss Federal Council has adopted the National Programme to Prevent and Fight Poverty 2014-2018. This highlights that although Switzerland is a developed country, it remains seized on this important issue and accepts that the challenge of poverty is a global challenge which affects all countries. We are encouraged that this latest strategy will enhance coordination and cooperation between relevant organizations in Switzerland in address the challenge of poverty.

4. In the spirit of constructive engagement, my delegation would like to propose to Switzerland the following two recommendations:

4.1 **One**: continue ongoing efforts to establish a national human rights institution and ensure the provision of the necessary resources to such an institution; and

4.2 **Two**: address the continued challenge of poverty, particularly among vulnerable groups, such as women and children, including women and children who are non-citizens.

I thank you, Mr. President.

**Geneva
9 November 2017**