**STATEMENT BY BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**Review of the United Arab Emirates**

**29th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Geneva, 22 January 2018**

Mr. President,

Brunei Darussalam would like to warmly welcome the delegation of the United Arab Emirates to the 29th Session of the UPR Working Group and thanks them for the updates provided since its last review.

Brunei Darussalam commends the effort of the United Arab Emirates to promote and protect the human rights of its people, as envisioned in its National Vision 2021. We welcome several initiatives introduced to safeguard and enhance the welfare of its children and youth, such as the adoption of the Federal Rights of the Child Act (or *Wadeema* Act), and the National Strategy for Youth Empowerment.

Brunei Darussalam also acknowledges the numerous steps undertaken by the Government of the United Arab Emirates to protect and empower vulnerable groups to ensure their active participation in society. We are pleased to note the adoption of the Strategic Plan for the Promotion of the Rights of Children with Disabilities 2017 – 2021 as well as the National Policy for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in 2017.

Encouraged by the aforesaid positive initiatives, Brunei Darussalam would like to make two (2) recommendations for the consideration of the Government of the United Arab Emirates:

1. Continue its efforts in promoting and protecting the lives of its people, particularly children and share best practices in youth empowerment.
2. Ensure the successful implementation of the National Policy for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Lastly, we wish the United Arab Emirates every success in this UPR session.

Thank you, Mr. President.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*