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**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA**

**Review of Colombia**

**30th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**7-18 May 2018**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Malaysia warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Colombia and thank them for the presentation of their national report.

1. Malaysia commends Colombia for numerous significant developments which it has achieved to further improve human rights conditions in the country since its second UPR. We are encouraged to note that the recommendations made by the Malaysian delegation then were accepted and significant progress has been made in this regard. We welcome the open and inclusive approach of the Government in preparing this National Report including wide spread consultations amongst key actors in the field of human rights.
2. The Colombian Government has shown determination and sincerity to continue the implementation of the Peace Agreements and peacebuilding in the country. We hope the Government would continue to effectively implement the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and lasting Peace including through adequate allocation of human, technical and financial resources.
3. Malaysia is pleased to note the active involvement of women in the peace process and welcome the establishment of a subcommittee on gender to ensure gender perspective is mainstreamed in the implementation of the peace agreements. Likewise, we welcome efforts to prevent forced recruitment and use of children and adolescents by illegal armed groups. Governments hold primary responsibility for child protection and when there is a political will, positive changes can be made. The “*My Future is Today*” programme which forms part of the implementation of the Peace Agreement attests to this. This programme is a step in the right direction to prevent recruitment and use of children and adolescents by illegal armed groups. Malaysia hopes that the implementation of this programme would successfully create protective environments for children and teenagers in Colombia.
4. In the spirit of constructive engagement, my delegation would like to invite Colombia to pay closer attention to the increasing rates of sexual violence against women in Colombia. Recent data shows that on average, a woman is sexually assaulted every 20 minutes and large numbers of these assaults are against girls between 10 and 13 years old. In this regard, we recommend Colombia to continue taking effective measures to prevent sexual violence against women, ensure all cases of sexual violence are investigated and perpetrators are brought to justice in a timely manner and victims are provided with support including medical and psychosocial services.

**GENEVA
10 May 2018**