

**STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**CONSIDERATION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM'S
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OUTCOME AT THE
27TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

19 SEPTEMBER 2014

Mr President,

On behalf of the delegation of Brunei Darussalam, I would like to express my appreciation to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group, particularly our Troika members (Morocco, Romania, and Saudi Arabia), as well as members of the Secretariat for facilitating our review last May.

Brunei Darussalam continues to attach importance to the UPR process as a useful mechanism in providing States with the opportunity to highlight their efforts in improving human rights in their respective countries.

Mr President,

In our opening statement last May, we have elaborated on how the core policy of the Government of His Majesty remains to be people-centred in all aspects. His Majesty's deep dedication towards the welfare of his people has ensured that our people continue to enjoy living in a peaceful and harmonious environment. We were pleased to have shared our perspective on promoting and protecting human rights, and we thank all delegations that had participated.

Mr President,

Before I proceed further, allow me to describe the process we have undertaken following our review. Brunei Darussalam received a total of 189 recommendations covering a wide range of human rights issues. In determining our national positions, a series of extensive inter-agency consultations were held to consider these recommendations, involving all the relevant agencies responsible in the implementation process.

We are pleased to inform the Council today that Brunei Darussalam has accepted 97 of the recommendations, which include those that have already been put into practice or are being implemented. Brunei Darussalam partially supports 14 recommendations, as we can accept one part of the recommendation, while taking note of the other part. We are, however, unable to accept 78 recommendations, because they may be contrary to the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam; the official religion of Brunei; and our national legislation. Our written explanation to our position on the recommendations is provided in document A/HRC/27/11/Add.1.

Mr President,

Allow me now to briefly explain our positions on some of our responses to the recommendations we have received:

1. *On human rights treaties, we wish to reiterate that Brunei Darussalam remains committed to its international obligations.*

Brunei Darussalam is already a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); and the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC).

As such, we have submitted our combined initial and second periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2012, and will be presenting it before the Committee next month. Additionally, Brunei has also submitted our combined second and third periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2013.

Furthermore, efforts are currently ongoing to look into Brunei's ratification of the the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OP-CRC-AC) in the near future.

- 2. With regards to lifting our reservations to the CEDAW and CRC; without prejudice to the generality of both Conventions, Brunei Darussalam wishes to retain its reservations, as well as other aspects of CEDAW and CRC.*

Notwithstanding this, Brunei Darussalam has withdrawn its reservations on paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 20 of the CRC relating to the protection of a child without a family, as well as paragraph (a) of Article 21 of the Convention pertaining to the law on adoption.

On CEDAW, Brunei Darussalam maintains its reservation on Article 9 (2) of the Convention. However, procedures are available for children of women citizens married to foreign nationals to be accorded Brunei citizenship through an application process, pursuant to Section 6 of the Brunei Nationality Act. In view that Brunei Darussalam has a policy of single nationality, children of women citizens may either be registered as Brunei nationals or the nationals as that of the father.

- 3. We received some recommendations with regards to promoting and protecting the rights of women.*

Here, we would like to highlight that women continue to contribute actively to the decision-making processes in the country. They have attained senior positions in various professions, which included Ambassador-At-Large; Attorney-General; Deputy Minister; members of the legislative council; as well as Chief Executive Officers in both the public and private sectors. This is greatly a result of our Government's long-standing policy in giving our girls and women equal access to education; in the workforce; and in our national development. These efforts for the advancement and empowerment of our women in contributing towards the socio-economic developments of our country will continue.

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Furthermore, the rights of women are protected through legislations such as the Islamic Family Law Act (Cap 217); Married Women Act (Cap 190); as well as the Women and Girls Protection Act (Cap 120).

Finally, Mr President,

We wish to conclude by again thanking all the delegations who participated in our review, and look forward to hearing the views and coments from everyone present here today.

Thank you.