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## STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA

### Agenda Item 3: Clustered ID with SR on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Expert Mechanism on the rights of Indigenous Peoples

27<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Human Rights Council  
17 September 2014

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Thank you Mr. President,

Malaysia thanks the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and members of the Expert Mechanism on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) for their reports. We take note of the recommendations as outlined in the reports.

2. Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to and support towards the efforts regarding the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In Malaysia, indigenous peoples are entitled to the same rights as any other Malaysian citizen.

3. The rights of the Orang Asli in Peninsular Malaysia are not only protected but guaranteed under the Federal Constitution and the Indigenous Peoples Act 1954. The administration of the indigenous peoples' affairs in Sabah and Sarawak differs somewhat from that of the indigenous peoples in Peninsular Malaysia. In Sabah and Sarawak, the indigenous peoples collectively form the majority of the population and are in fact, the mainstream society.

4. The Government of Malaysia continues to undertake efforts to further promote and protect the rights of all indigenous peoples in Malaysia. The Government also continuously endeavours to further foster harmonious relations between the indigenous peoples - both in the Peninsular and Sabah and Sarawak - and the rest of the Malaysian population.

5. We take note of the SR's focus on this issue for the next three years, as highlighted in paragraph 52 of her report, and wish to reaffirm our commitment and support to her work. To illustrate some of the initiatives that the Government of Malaysia have been continuously undertaking in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples in Malaysia, we wish to highlight the focus that the Government has put forth in the 10<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan where much attention has been given on the efforts to eradicate poverty, regardless of ethnicity, and in particular, by reducing the incidence of poverty among the indigenous population from 31 percent in 2010 to 25 percent in 2015. The Government has also introduced income-generating programmes, namely agropolitan projects and other commercial agricultural activities, for the advancement of the indigenous

peoples. Efforts are also being made to provide them with better and quality education.

6. We recognise that challenges remain in our efforts to further improve the economic and social standing of the indigenous communities and their integration into mainstream society. In line with this, Malaysia has developed comprehensive policies and strategies for the development of indigenous peoples that focus on uplifting the status and quality of life of the indigenous community via various socio-economic programmes. At the same time, the Government has given priority to help them preserve their traditional cultural heritage.

I thank you.

**GENEVA**

**17 September 2014**