Statement by Malaysia on Progress Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
2 October 2006

Malaysia associates itself with the Statements by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC and by the Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Asian Group. We thank the facilitator of the Working Group on the UPR for his update on the progress made to date on the implementation of OP5(e) of GA Resolution 60/251.

2. Our deliberation this afternoon is timely as it will permit the Council to take stock of the work carried out to date on this important issue. The extensive discussions undertaken by the Working Group during the inter-sessional period revealed the convergence of views on some elements of the UPR as well as divergence on others.

3. For the Working Group of the UPR to conclude its work on the modalities and time allocation for the mechanism within one year after holding the Council's first Session, we have to narrow and bridge the divergence of views on various aspects of the UPR.

4. Malaysia takes this opportunity to underscore its view on several elements of the UPR. We wish to reiterate that the UPR, as provided by GA Resolution 60/251, should only undertake review of the fulfillment by each state of human rights obligations and commitments it has undertaken. As a cooperative mechanism based on interactive dialogue, the country reviewed must be fully involved and consideration given to its capacity building needs. The review must take full account of the religious, historical and cultural specificities as well as the laws of the country concerned. Only then will the review result in practical outcome, facilitating improvements of the human rights situation of the state concerned.

5. On the periodicity of the review, Malaysia takes the position that the review should not be too frequent to be burdensome nor too far apart to be ineffective. Given this, we believe the cycle of review for each member of the UN should be once in five years. The review should be peer process, conducted by member states of the Council, based on objective criteria on a format agreed to by the Council and applicable to all undergoing the review.