Thank you Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to express our appreciation to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General for their thematic reports presented to this Council. We align ourselves with the statements delivered by Pakistan and Iran, on behalf of the OIC and NAM, respectively.

2. We also thank Ambassador Tamara Kunanayakam for presenting the report of the Working Group on the Right to Development and commend her leadership in this regard. We remain hopeful that the Working Group could finalise the draft criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria that would guide the way to the full realisation of the right to development. Malaysia attaches great importance to this right in order to attain and fully realise the MDG - post-2015 and beyond – in our efforts to further improve the lives of our peoples.

3. We reaffirm our support and commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous People. We are encouraged by the active participation and contribution by the OHCHR and the support it has given in providing technical assistance and capacity-building to States in this context.

4. Recognising their distinctive and unique lifestyle, culture and traditions, the Government of Malaysia ensures that the indigenous community be afforded the right to choose their way of life, including the decision whether to join the mainstream of society. An indigenous person in Malaysia has the same rights as any other Malaysian citizen. These rights are guaranteed under the Federal Constitution and other laws such as the Aboriginal People Act 1954. In furthering their rights, the
Government of Malaysia, under the 10th Malaysia Plan, endeavours to take measures to widen their access to basic fundamental rights such as food, shelter, health, education and employment.

5. Malaysia's unique historical background has blessed us with a wide diversity in ethnicity, language, cultural and religious beliefs which we strongly embrace, value and preserve. While we respect the universality of human rights, we believe that recognising the unique differences in cultural practices, religious beliefs and historical backgrounds is also of importance in our efforts to promote and protect the fundamental rights of peoples. We do not believe that there is a "one size fits all" human rights model as one country's model cannot be applied in its entirety to another. We firmly believe that education and awareness of such differences should be further enhanced to better understand the traditional values of humankind.

6. We take note of the report prepared by the Secretary-General on the question of the death penalty and wish to reiterate that, in Malaysia, it is only applied to on the most serious crimes and only when all rights of appeals have been exhausted. The Government of Malaysia also continues to engage and consult the public on this issue, including the possible alternatives to death penalty.

I thank you.

GENEVA
13 September 2013