As this is the first time Brunei Darussalam is taking the floor, we would like to congratulate you on your excellent chairmanship so far.

Brunei Darussalam would like to also express our gratitude to the Secretariat for all their hard work and efforts with regards the first cycle which has no doubt brought positive benefits and changes to country’s frameworks with regards the fight against corruption.

Brunei Darussalam acceded to the UNCAC in 2008. Where the first cycle is concerned, Brunei Darussalam was reviewed in 2012 by governmental experts from Yemen and Liechtenstein. In turn, we have also contributed our own governmental experts for the reviews of Republic of Ireland, which we conducted with Luxembourg, and the review of Afghanistan, which we conducted together with the People’s Republic of China. Brunei Darussalam would like to state that the involvement of our own governmental experts in the first cycle reviews have contributed immensely to the improvement of our own anti-corruption frameworks as well increased our knowledge and expertise concerning the UNCAC and its subsequent implementation.

Brunei Darussalam would like to report on the various efforts taken in order to better implement our domestic framework to the UNCAC

- In 2012, we have introduced a new law pertaining to asset recovery and money laundering, namely the Criminal Asset Recovery Order 2012. Given the close links between such activities with corruption, the law has provided more robust powers to the financial intelligence unit as well as enforcement agencies including our anti corruption bureau to investigate and ensure that illegal money does not taint our financial
systems and to effectively prosecute money laundering as a stand alone offence.

- In 2015, we introduced the offence of misconduct in public office as an amendment to our prevention of corruption act, Chapter 131. This enhances our fight against corruption, as these offences do not need any proof of corrupt intent and the offence is committed on the basis of breach of professional conduct and duties. Brunei Darussalam has taken this step to ensure that technicalities in terms of conduct do not form a barrier to our fight against corruption. We are pleased to report that this has spurred ministries and departments as well as government linked companies in our country to examine and establish their own codes of conduct, which will no doubt contribute to Chapter 2 implementation actions for Brunei in the near future.

To this end, we would to once again reiterate specific thanks to the UNODC regional office for South East Asia in Bangkok who have recently conducted two very useful workshops on protection of witnesses and reporting persons (Article 32 and 33) and liability of legal persons (Article 26). These training delivered from experts in the field globally have contributed to our increased expertise in order to spur further amendments to our laws.

In conclusion, Brunei Darussalam would like to reiterate our support of the review process, entering into the second cycle. Brunei Darussalam has no doubt benefited from the recommendations and experience both as a reviewed country and a reviewing country. Thank You.