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Report of the Human Rights Council
Statement by H.E. Zsolt. Hetesy Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d’Affaires a.i.
General Assembly
16 November 2015

Mr. President,

Hungary would like to thank the President of the Human Rights Council, Mr. Joachim Rucker, for presenting the annual report of the Council to the General Assembly.

We fully align ourselves with the statement delivered by the European Union, including joining others in expressing our deepest condolences to all People and Governments affected by recent terrorist attacks.

We would like to highlight the following issues in our national capacity.

Hungary reiterates its full and continued support to the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. We have been an active supporter of the Council since its establishment in 2006, including by taking a leading role in introducing resolutions on the independence of the judiciary and on the question of reprisals. Hungary was a member of the Council between 2009 and 2012 and served as its Vice-President between 2011 and 2012. We have presented our candidature for membership in the Council for the period 2017-2019.

We are strongly committed to the protection of human rights defenders and firmly believe that the participation of **civil society** in the work of the Council is essential. We remain deeply concerned by continued acts of intimidation and **reprisals** against those who cooperate or seek to cooperate with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, including in the Human Rights Council. We condemn all acts of intimidation and reprisals and welcome the actions taken by the President of the Human Rights Council to address this important issue.

Mr. President,

We attach great importance to the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** and believe that, over the past 7 years, the UPR has established itself as a unique and important peer review mechanism. During the sessions of the UPR, we strive to ensure that each review is focused on improving the situation of human rights in the country under review. Looking ahead, we will promote the adoption of concrete, measurable and implementable recommendations that would enhance the effectiveness and impact of this important mechanism. In our national capacity, we have submitted our mid-term UPR report and are now in the process of preparing for our 2nd review to be held in the spring of 2016.

We also strongly support the work of the **special procedures** of the Council which play a crucial role in advancing the UN's human rights agenda. Hungary has extended a standing invitation to all special procedures, and will continue to cooperate with the mandate holders by facilitating their country visits, responding in a timely manner to their communications and acting upon their recommendations. In the past, we have facilitated the visits of six different special procedures to Hungary, and we look forward to the upcoming visits of the Working Group on discrimination against women, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

Hungary continues to host the annual **Budapest Human Rights Forum** as part of its commitment to raise awareness about human rights issues that are high on the international community's agenda. Over the past years, the international conference has grown into an important venue for the exchange of views among government representatives, human rights experts, civil society and the academia. The 8th Budapest Human Rights Forum, held last week in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the UN and featured discussions about human rights and sustainable development, the participation of minorities in the media, business, the fulfillment of human rights, and about the Universal Periodic Review.

Mr. President,

Hungary attaches great importance to the implementation of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**. As co-chair of the Open Working on Sustainable Development Goals, Hungary worked with Member States and other stakeholders to ensure that the goals and targets of the Agenda reflect the universality and indivisibility of all human rights.

The 2030 Agenda promises "more peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence" and incorporates important elements on democratic governance, rule of law, access to justice and the protection of fundamental freedoms. The Agenda also places the principles of equality and non-discrimination at the center of sustainable development efforts by calling for a just, equitable and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met. If implemented, the Agenda will go a long way in ensuring the fulfillment of human rights for all. We believe that the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms can also contribute to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Let me conclude by reiterating Hungary's full support to the work of the Human Rights Council.

Thank you, Mr. President.