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Hungary's Statement on The Netherlands, UPR 13th Session, 31 May 2012

Madame President,

Hungary warmly welcomes the delegation of The Netherlands to this UPR and we congratulate the Government on the open and constructive consultations held with civil society in preparing its national report. We highly recognize the country's ongoing commitment to the cause of Human Rights as demonstrated by its substantial financial contributions to the OHCHR as well as through the expertise provided to the Council and to its mechanisms.

Hungary congratulates The Netherlands on the recent adoption of a bill, establishing a new Human Rights Institute in accordance with the Paris Principles, as well as the appointment in April 2011 of a Children's Ombudsman, which operates independently to promote the observance of the rights of children and young people in the country. We are equally supportive of the enactment in 2009 of the Municipal Anti-Discrimination Services Act, ensuring that all citizens are able to report cases of discrimination in their own place of residence. Could the delegation elaborate on the effects and benefits of this decentralized approach to all groups vulnerable to discrimination?

We welcome that in recent years, the Dutch legislator has defined discrimination as an aggravating factor warranting a 50 or sometimes even 100% sentence increase. To guarantee the effective implementation of this legal obligation, we **recommend** that the Government ensure adequate registration of discriminatory motives by raising awareness among the legal profession and law enforcement officials of the need to recognize aggravated circumstances specific to hate crimes and discrimination at all levels of prosecution and criminal procedures. We would also appreciate some clarification how the Government is planning to address openly discriminatory statements by public institutions and countering misrepresentations of facts by politicians, in line with its commitment to battle racism and xenophobia.

Finally, Madame President, Dutch children were rated by UNICEF as the most content in the world. My delegation congratulates the Government in this regard on achieving a total prohibition of corporal punishment of children in all settings in the European part of the Dutch territory. We **recommend** that The Netherlands build on this success and ensure that this prohibition is also duly implemented in Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles by enacting the necessary legislation in this regard. Likewise, we appreciate that The Netherlands has launched a new action plan against child abuse, including sexual violence and child pornography for the period 2012-2016 and we **recommend** that the Government report on the implementation of this plan during their next interim UPR report.

Thank you, Madame President!