

Mr. Istvan Lukats  
human rights ambassador

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## Hungary's Statement on Bangladesh, UPR 16th Session, 29 April 2013

Mr. President,

Hungary warmly welcomes the delegation of Bangladesh to this UPR session and would like to thank them for the comprehensive summary of the human rights situation in the country. We commend the fact that the report was prepared through consultations with the representatives of the civil society, the National Human Rights Commission and human rights experts.

Hungary highly appreciates the efforts by the Government to address poverty, health care, education, food safety and housing which are important factors in the fulfilment of the human rights of the citizens. **It is important that Bangladesh attaches high priority to education for all with the highest allocation in the budget. However the results could be further strengthened by incorporating the right to education into the Constitution. The achievements in the field of gender parity are remarkable as they can significantly contribute to the empowerment of women.**

With regard to the scope of Bangladesh's international obligations, we take a positive note of the ratification of the CRPD since its first review, and we recommend the Government to ratify the OPCAT, the ICERD and the Optional Protocols of the ICCPR. In this context we also recommend the Government to issue a standing invitation for UN human rights special procedures and to accept all requested visits by mandate holders. It would allow the country to profit from the rich experience of the UN human rights system, which would certainly contribute to the improvement of the level of human rights protection in the country.

My Government acknowledges all those institutional changes, including the establishment of National Human Rights Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, National Election Commission or the National Legal Aid Services Organization which are playing an important role in the protection and promotion of human rights. **We find the 15<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution, which restored Secularism as a fundamental principle and ensures equal status for all religions an extremely important, landmark decision by the present Government. However, we are concerned about reported cases of extrajudicial killings, disappearances and torture, which should be investigated and the perpetrators should be brought to justice.**

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by expressing our appreciation for the establishment of the International Crimes Tribunal Bangladesh which can play a decisive role in facing the dark chapters of the Liberation War of 1971. We would encourage the Government to address the shortcomings in the conduct of trials at this Tribunal, which will strengthen the legitimacy of the decisions of this important body.

Thank you Mr. President.