

Statement by Hungary on Turkmenistan, UPR Session 16, 22 April 2013

Mr. President,

Hungary welcomes the delegation of Turkmenistan and would like to commend the efforts of the Government in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as including human rights education into the school curricula. To benefit from the expertise of the special rapporteurs of this Council, in order to further strengthen respect for human rights, Hungary **recommends** drawing a timeline for realising the visits of the rapporteurs, who so requested, to the country.

We appreciate that Turkmenistan accepted a number of recommendations made during the first UPR cycle on important areas of freedom of speech or assembly. We would therefore appreciate further efforts to bring to an end situations, where opposition and civil society as well as social network websites including Facebook, Twitter are often blocked by the authorities despite the new regulation which, according to the national UPR report, is drafted according to the international obligations of Turkmenistan.

During the first UPR of Turkmenistan my delegation requested information on measures planned to guarantee the safe and secure activity of human rights defenders. According to reports, journalists and members of the civil society continue to be subjected to harassment, and even imprisonment following trials lacking the necessary safeguards. We therefore **recommend** the Government to ensure that leaders of all political parties, religious believers, civil society activists and journalists can peacefully exercise their right to freedom of expression in conformity with the ICCPR to which Turkmenistan is a party to.

Hungary welcomes the legislative steps taken by the Government regarding the protection of children from the harmful effects of all forms of child labour. To address the apparent difficulties of in implementation of these laws we **recommend** inviting ILO expertise to overcome existing challenges.

Finally Mr. President, my delegation appreciates the information provided in the national report regarding the ratification of the Rome Statute and would be grateful to know what is the envisaged timeline for the accession to the ICC by Turkmenistan.

Thank you Mr. President.

