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## STATEMENT OF HUNGARY

### UPR REVIEW OF ISRAEL

29 OCTOBER 2013

Mr. President,

Let me thank the delegation of Israel for presenting an update on the human rights situation in their country. I also thank Israel for the submission of a very substantive and detailed national report.

We think it is important to have the Israeli views and positions represented and clearly spelled out in the UN's Human Rights Council. That is why we have encouraged Israel to resume full cooperation with the Council and special procedure mandate holders. Hungary is convinced that Israel has much more to gain than to lose from taking this step. We are heartened by the fact that Israel has never ceased to cooperate with human rights treaty bodies and hope that all reports will be submitted and considered as scheduled.

Mr. President,

We have carefully noted that Israel has acceded to a number of important human rights treaties. Nevertheless, there are a few gaps and in this respect Hungary recommends the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OP-CAT) and, although not a human rights instrument per se, of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Mr. President,

Hungary is convinced that Israel's democratic institutions and processes are capable of dealing with human rights challenges. A number of these have been pointed out by treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders in the past.

We would only like to highlight the importance of the protection of the rights of minorities, in particular religious minorities and of the protection and preservation of their places of worship throughout Israel. Freedom of movement and access to these sites is also a matter of concern. In this regard, the national report gives a useful account of Israeli practices and efforts, which we commend. Nevertheless, we would like to enquire whether any legislative or other steps are foreseen to improve further the current situation.

Thank you!