

Statement by Hungary on Malta, UPR Session 17, 30 October 2013

Mr. President,

Hungary warmly welcomes Her Excellency the Minister, Ms. Helena Dalli and her delegation, and congratulates Malta on their extensive and thorough national report prepared in consultation with a large variety of stakeholders.

My delegation takes positive note of the Ratification by Malta of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol, which shows the country's firm commitment to creating a better quality of life for disabled persons in the country. We also welcome the different initiatives taken by the NCPD in the disability sector. **We recommend** that Malta continue its efforts to further eliminate barriers to the full and effective participation in mainstream society of disabled persons, including children, in particular with regard to education, independent living, accessibility to multimedia and full participation in political and public life.

We acknowledge the many challenges Malta has had to face in the past decade in addressing the heavy influx of irregular migrants. We welcome the efforts undertaken by Malta to ensure the well being and protection of migrants and the implementation of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programs. However, we share the concerns of the CRC, that unaccompanied migrant children, pending the determination of their age, are kept in detention facilities, often with unrelated adults and that they have little or no access to legal representation. **We recommend** that Malta take the necessary measures to end detention of unaccompanied minors, and pending such measures, ensure that they are detained separately from adults and receive adequate and free legal representation. Also, could the delegation please elaborate on the procedures that need to take place before detainees, categorized as "vulnerable", can be released from detention and the average time required for completing such procedures.

Finally, Mr. President, we welcome the various specialised bodies set up by Malta to monitor a wide spectrum of human rights and the establishment of the office of the Parliamentary Ombudsman. **We recommend** that the government work towards enhancing the status, powers and functions of the office of the ombudsman to ensure full compliance with the Paris Principles.

Thank you Mr. President