

**Statement by Hungary on Vietnam**

**UPR Session 18, 5 February 2014**

**Delivered by Ellen van Thiel,**

**Human Rights Advisor, Permanent Mission of Hungary**

Mr. President,

Hungary warmly welcomes the delegation from Vietnam to this UPR and thanks the Government for the national report, prepared in collaboration with a wide range of line ministries.

My delegation takes positive note of the efforts made by Vietnam to improve human rights education in the country, as it is our belief that such education is key in ensuring that government agencies and law enforcement officials abide by Vietnam's international human rights obligations. We believe that Vietnam may benefit in this regard from an enhanced cooperation with the OHCHR and **we recommend** that Vietnam accept all outstanding and new requests from mandate holders to visit the country.

Mr. President, while recognizing Vietnam's efforts to ensure broad access to mass media, my country is concerned about the recent enactment of legislation, legalizing content filtering and censorship and the increased persecution of writers, journalists, bloggers and human rights defenders. **We recommend** that Vietnam, in line with its previous commitments, take all necessary measures to ensure that freedom of expression, including on the internet, is fully guaranteed, in law and in practice, inter alia by bringing its legislation in line with ~~Vietnam~~ ~~the country's~~ obligations under the ICCPR. Releasing all people imprisoned, detained, or placed under house arrest, administrative detention, or involuntary commitment to mental hospitals or Social Protection Centers for the peaceful expression of political or religious beliefs would be a positive step in this direction.

Let me conclude Mr. President by congratulating the country on the significant progress made towards the achievement of the MDGs, in particular as regards access to education and healthcare, and poverty reduction.