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Statement by Hungary on Albania, UPR Session 19, 28 April 2014
H.E. András Dékány Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Mr. President,

Hungary warmly welcomes the delegation of Albania to the 19th session of the UPR and would like to thank them for the comprehensive summary of the human rights situation in the country. We are pleased to note the fact that that this report was prepared in a transparent process, and discussed with the representatives of the civil society.

With regard to the scope of Albania's international obligations, we take a positive note of the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities and the optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure since its first review.

We commend Albania for the amendment of the Law on Violence in Family Relations in 2010, which allowed victims of domestic violence to apply to the courts for an order to be protected from the perpetrator. The number of petitions had increased, but only few protection orders had been granted by the courts. Therefore, **we recommend Albania to undertake a deep analysis of those protection orders that were broken in order to identify the root causes and to take appropriate measures to secure the safety of the victims.**

We are also concerned about the situation of minority languages in Albania. While we recognize the efforts made to open and support pre-school education facilities in areas where large number of Roma children live, the number of Roma children remaining outside the education system is still alarmingly high. Consequently, the number of illiterate Roma remains high. **We, therefore, recommend that Albania intensify the dialogue with persons belonging to national minorities on the opportunities for teaching of and in minority languages and, where appropriate, take the necessary steps to address any shortcomings. In this context, we recommend the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.**

Finally, let me conclude by expressing our appreciation that since its first UPR review, the legal and normative framework on the protection of human rights has been enhanced in Albania, and a series of strategies and action plans have been adopted and reviewed to this effect.

Thank you Mr. President,