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Statement of Hungary on Ethiopia, UPR19, 6 May 2014

Mr. President,

Hungary extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Ethiopia and thanks it for the well-structured national report. We commend Ethiopia for its dedication to economic development and for its efforts to address violence against women and children and FMG and we welcome the adoption of the 2013 National Human Rights Action Plan. We regret, however, that despite Ethiopia's 2010 UPR commitments and its obligations under the ICCPR, civil society space has been seriously restricted and national laws have been used to curtail freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. Hungary is also concerned about allegations of arbitrary detention and ill treatment of detainees, including through torture, rape and pro-longed pre-trial detention, often incommunicado.

In light of the above, we would like to make the following recommendations to Ethiopia:

1. To strengthen, as a matter of priority, its cooperation with UN Human Rights mechanisms, including by permitting visits from Special Procedures mandate holders
2. To create, in view of the upcoming elections, a conducive environment for independent civil society to conduct civic and voter education, monitor elections and organize election debates, by lifting all undue restrictions on activities and funding of NGOs.
3. To ratify OPCAT and grant ICRC and other independent international mechanisms immediate, full and genuine access to all detention facilities in the country.

To conclude, allow me Mr. President, to express our appreciation for the leadership role taken by the Ethiopian delegation in calling for a special session of the HRC to address the human rights situation in the central African Republic.

Thank you.