

Hungary's Statement on Norway, UPR 19th Session, 28 April 2014
Dr. István Lakatos human rights ambassador

Mr. President,

Hungary warmly welcomes the delegation of Norway to this UPR session and would like to thank them for the comprehensive summary of the human rights situation in the country. We commend the fact that a mid-term report was submitted in 2012, and that this report was prepared in a transparent process, in which the representatives of the vibrant Norwegian civil society were involved.

Hungary highly appreciates the high standard of human rights protection Norway is providing for its citizens. With regard to the scope of Norway's international obligations, we take a positive note of the ratification of the CRPD and OPCAT since its first review.

As we learned that the Norwegian NHRI was downgraded from "A" to "B" status we recommend the Government to establish a new NHRI, in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Mr. President,

Hungary considers the amendment of Article 2 of the Norwegian Constitution as a positive step, but my delegation would be happy to learn more about the concrete consequences of the fact that the term "state religion" was replaced by the provision stating that the Church of Norway is the national church.

Norway has an impressive child care system, but according to reports unaccompanied asylum-seeking children between 15 and 18 were subjected to discrimination, and they did not enjoy the same rights as other children afforded by the Child Welfare Services. **Hungary recommends that Norway place the responsibility for all unaccompanied minor asylum seekers up to the age of 18 years with the Child Welfare Services.**

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by expressing our appreciation for the important and positive role played by Norway in the Human Rights Council, particularly for its leading role in the protection of human rights defenders.

Thank you Mr. President.