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Hungary's Statement on Portugal, UPR 19th Session, 30 April 2014
dr. Istvan Lakatos human rights ambassador

Mr. President,

Hungary warmly welcomes the delegation of Portugal 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, and discussed with the representatives of the civil society within the auspices of the Portuguese National Human Rights Committee. We highly commend the fact that this new coordinative body strengthened the dialogue with civil society and contributed to the timely submission of national implementation reports to UN treaty bodies.

With regard to the scope of Portugal's international obligations, we take a positive note of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the OPCAT since its first review.

Hungary welcomes that important steps were taken in Portugal to accelerate the investigation of crimes of domestic violence, and that special teams were established to deal with these cases and the victims.

Hungary is concerned that according to CPT the right to access to lawyer was, in fact not effective for a large number of detainees, therefore **we recommend the Government to call upon the competent authorities to ensure the right of access to lawyer by detained persons.**

Mr. President,

We noted that the prison population has been increasing significantly since 2009, and in many cases juveniles have been accommodated together with adults, therefore **we recommend the Government to support through legislation non-custodial measures as an alternative to imprisonment to reduce overcrowding in prisons.**

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by expressing our appreciation for the important and positive role played by Portugal in the Human Rights Council with regard to the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights.

Thank you Mr. President.