

Statement by Hungary on Kuwait
21st Session of the UPR Working Group
28 January 2015

Mr. President,

We welcome the Kuwaiti delegation to the 21st session of the UPR Working Group and we thank them for presenting an update on the human rights situation in the country by submitting a very detailed national report.

During the first UPR cycle Hungary made a recommendation with regard to the *advancement of women*. We are pleased to see encouraging reforms in this field. More and more professions are made accessible for women, most recently public prosecution functions. Women have the right to vote and can run as candidates for the National Assembly. We are hopeful that the positive tendency of the last years continues, therefore we **recommend** to Kuwait to encourage and facilitate the representation of women in parliament, in the judiciary and in diplomatic missions abroad.

We take positive note that in Kuwait NGOs can be founded and are able to act without impediment and lobby a government that will listen. Nevertheless we **recommend** to Kuwait to establish an independent *national human rights institution* in accordance with the Paris Principles which complements the role of civil society organizations.

We are concerned that the State of Kuwait signed the *Rome Statute* in 2000 but has not yet ratified it. While a ratification proposal was drafted in 2007, no further progress has been made in this regard. Therefore we **recommend** to Kuwait to ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

We are aware that *stateless persons* in Kuwait are one of the most prominent problems at all levels of life. Hungary appreciates that the government has provided some privileges and services to them and it also adopted a bill in 2013 permitting about 4000 qualifying stateless individuals to be granted nationality. We encourage the government to continue with the efforts to improve their very difficult situation.

Thank you, Mr. President!