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Statement by Hungary on Rwanda
23rd Session of the UPR Working Group
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Mr. President,

We welcome the delegation of Rwanda and thank them for the national report and the oral update.

Hungary acknowledges Rwanda's remarkable economic growth and its progress in social development. We highly appreciate Rwanda's outstanding role in the promotion of the Responsibility to Protect concept, and its efforts in the protection of human rights. However, several concerns remain and there are areas for further improvement.

Hungary wishes to raise the following 3 points:

- During the 2011 review, Rwanda accepted recommendations to reform the justice system including to "eliminate corruption and political interference". We note with regret that despite legal and administrative reforms unfair trials were reported in a number of politically sensitive judicial cases. Therefore Hungary **recommends** that Rwanda strengthen the independence of the justice system and prevent and refrain from political interference in prosecutions and trials.
- Hungary is concerned that human rights defenders in Rwanda continue to face harassment, intimidation and reprisals in the course, and as a consequence of their work. That is why we **recommend** that the Government of Rwanda enact specific laws and policies recognising and protecting the work of human rights defenders and enabling safe and unhindered access to international human rights mechanisms.
- Finally, Hungary welcomes the adoption of the Strategic Plan of the Education Sector (2013-2018). However, we are concerned that while primary education is free, several types of hidden educational costs exist negatively affecting the poorest. Therefore we **recommend** greater investment in the education sector and improvement of the quality and coverage of Rwanda's early childhood care and education.

Thank you, Mr. President!