**Statement by Hungary on the Syrian Arab Republic**

**26th Session of the UPR Working Group, 31 October 2016**

**Mr. President,**

Hungary welcomes the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic and thanks for the national report and the update.

The civil war in Syria, which started in 2011, has become an increasingly bloody and disgraceful human rights crisis over the years. Hungary is appalled by the unprecedented level of violence throughout the country causing immense suffering for the civilian population, including men, women and children. We are gravely concerned by the deliberate and indiscriminate attacks of civilians carried out by all parties to the conflict but mainly by the Governmental forces. We recommend that the Government abides by the laws of war, especially by immediately ending all deliberate, indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks against civilians.

As we speak, hundreds of thousands of people are trapped in besieged locations and face life-threatening shortages of food, water, medicine and basic supplies. This extremely dire humanitarian situation is unacceptable. That is why we recommend that the Government of Syria must ensure full, unhindered, unconditional and sustained humanitarian access in the territories under their control to all people in need.

Hungary attaches particular importance to the protection of religious minorities and strongly condemns the attacks, killings and executions, torture, sexual violence and forced displacement against religious minorities groups including Christians committed by Daesh and other extremists operating in Syria. We urge the Government to investigate and prosecute all crimes against religious or ethnic minorities. Finally, let me emphasize that Hungary firmly believes there is no alternative to a negotiated political solution. Thus, in the current situation the primary focus must be on the re-establishment of a full cessation of hostilities.

**Thank you, Mr. President!**