**Statement of Hungary on Ghana**

**28th Session of the UPR Working Group, 7 November 2017**

**Mr. President,**

Hungary welcomes the delegation of Ghana and expresses thanks for the detailed national report and update. We welcome the endeavour of the Government to take all necessary steps to promote and protect human rights.

**Hungary recommends that the Government**

* Take further measures to prevent hate crimes, hate speech, and discrimination.
* Develop a strategy and an operational National Action Plan to combat child marriage.
* Expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

We recognize that the Government has made relentless efforts to curb child abuse and violence. Nevertheless, we encourage the Government to identify gaps in the current legal and policy systems to protect children from violence, strengthen law enforcement and harmonize legislations and policies on child protection. We also encourage the strengthening of the monitoring system to ensure that no child is given corporal punishment.

We regret that according to last year’s independent reports, the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour did not accomplish its goals, and child labour continued to be a serious problem. Therefore, we urge the Government to reinforce the national monitoring system to assess the actual situation of children engaging in the labour industry.

Hungary appreciates the new National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan, which aims to reduce new HIV infections and AIDS related deaths by 80 %, as well as strengthen Health and Community Systems by 2020.

We also welcome the setting up of the Special Education Division of the Ghana Education Service, which ensures equitable educational opportunities for children with special needs.

**Thank you, Mr. President!**