**Statement of Hungary on Romania**

**29th Session of the UPR Working Group, January 2018**

**Mr. President,**

Hungary welcomes the delegation of Romania and expresses its thanks for the detailed national report and update. Hungary throughout the years made significant efforts to build a relationship with Romania based on mutual respect and cooperation. It is, however, undoubted that the recent statement of the Prime Minister of Romania threatening a national minority with execution is unacceptable, inconsistent with the international values of human rights and the values of the 21st century. The right to life is the most basic human right of all proclaimed in all relevant international and regional human rights conventions such as the UDHR, the ICCPR or the ECHR. Furthermore, the protection of minority rights – including the right to preserve, develop and express one’s identity – is enshrined in the Constitution of Romania under Article 6 of Title II (General Principles).

**Hungary recommends that the Government**

* amend national legislation to ensure full compliance with all obligations and commitments related to the protection and promotion of human rights including those of national minorities stemming from the ratification of minority rights treaties, including the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.
* protect and respect the rights of national and religious minorities by returning their properties and ensure legal certainty in this context,
* ensure full implementation of the law on public administration by clarifying the legal uncertainty about the threshold requirement for displaying street names and topographical signs in the minority languages.
* guarantee the right of freedom of peaceful assembly of minorities without discrimination.
* revise the curricula and the history textbooks to make sure that diversity of cultures and perspectives of minorities are reflected and that stereotypes and prejudices are eliminated.
* ensure that school enrolment plans and the numerical threshold for creation of classes are not used in a discriminatory way, while providing access to technical and vocational education in the minority language.

We wish to draw the attention of Romania to the above mentioned areas where full implementation of the rights of national minorities would require further positive steps from its side as requested – among others – by the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania in its Parallel Reports submitted in 2016-17 to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

**Thank you, Mr. President!**