**Statement by Hungary on Uzbekistan**

**30th Session of the UPR Working Group, 9 May 2017**

**Mr. President,**

Hungary welcomes the delegation of Uzbekistan to the UPR Working Group.

We commend that the Uzbek authorities have taken steps since September 2016 to improve the country’s human rights record, such as releasing several political prisoners, relaxing restrictions on freedom of expression and increasing accountability of government institutions. Furthermore, Uzbek authorities announced 2017 a “year of dialogue and interests of the people”. Hungary encourages the government of Uzbekistan to continue this process and transform the above-mentioned steps into sustainable human rights improvements.

We note positively that Uzbekistan expressed its willingness to engage more closely with UN human rights mechanisms. After the first ever visit of a UN High Commissioner on Human Rights in the country in May 2017, the parliament approved detailed roadmap on cooperation with UN OHCHR. President of Uzbekistan also committed himself to achieve substantial progress in Human Rights. The twelve-day visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, which took place in October 2017, was a step in the right direction.

Hungary wishes to make the following recommendations to Uzbekistan:

1. Release all wrongfully imprisoned persons and take further meaningful measures to end torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities.
2. Issue an official invitation letter to all UN mandate holders who have outstanding requests to visit Uzbekistan.

Hungary wishes Uzbekistan every success in this UPR process.

**Thank you, Mr. President.**