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**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-Third session, 13-30 September 2016**

**Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports**

HUNGARY

Mr. President,

Amnesty International regrets Hungary's rejection of many recommendations relating to the rights of refugees and migrants.¹ In particular, we regret its rejection of recommendations to end the criminalization of irregular entry, the use of "transit zones",² and the detention of asylum seekers.³ We are also disappointed that Hungary did not support a recommendation to revise the national list of "safe countries".⁴ A "safe third country" mechanism cannot be used to sidestep Hungary's obligations under international law. Hungary's rejection signals a continued failure to respect the rights of refugees and migrants, including to provide access to a fair and effective asylum procedure, including assessment of individual claims for international protection.

Amnesty International notes Hungary's partial acceptance of recommendations to guarantee the right to a fair and individualized asylum procedure,⁵ respect the principle of *non-refoulement* without exception,⁶ improve conditions in detention for migrants and asylum seekers, and implement alternatives to detention.⁷ We are concerned, however, that legal and policy measures in Hungary continue to contradict international refugee standards. Hundreds of asylum seekers remain in detention for months on end without having committed any crime,⁸

¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Hungary*, A/HRC/33/9, 8 July 2016, recommendations 128.9-128.12 (Turkey, Ecuador, Guatemala, Uruguay, Egypt, Senegal).

² A/HRC/33/9, recommendation 128.207 (Iceland).

³ A/HRC/33/9, recommendation 128.187 (Uruguay).

⁴ A/HRC/33/9, recommendation 128.220 (Spain).

⁵ A/HRC/33/9, recommendations 128.197 (Finland), 128.198 (Germany).

⁶ A/HRC/33/9, recommendations 128.184 (Sweden), 128.188 (Argentina), 128.189 (Brazil).

⁷ A/HRC/33/9, recommendations 128.215 (Malaysia), 128.217 (Norway), 128.219 (Republic of Korea).

⁸ Hungarian Helsinki Committee, 'Hungary: Key Asylum Figures as of 1 August 2016', available at: <http://www.helsinki.hu/wp-content/uploads/HHC-Hungary-asylum-figures-1-August-2016.pdf>

while recent legal amendments authorizing summary expulsion of non-citizens by police have enabled the unlawful push-back of thousands⁹ to Serbia from deep within Hungarian territory.¹⁰

With regard to combating hate crimes, we welcome Hungary's acceptance of a recommendation to strengthen the special police network for hate crimes by training its members and allocating sufficient resources.¹¹ We also welcome its partial acceptance of a recommendation to adopt a hate crime investigation protocol to ensure that victims have effective access to remedy.¹² We urge Hungary to implement these measures without delay.

Thank you, Mr. President.

⁹ Hungarian Government communication, '*Mass migration is organised, aggressive and illegal*', 8 August 2016, available at: <http://www.kormany.hu/en/news/mass-migration-is-organised-aggressive-and-illegal>

¹⁰ Amnesty International, '*Hungary: Crackdown on the rights of refugees and migrants continues unabated amidst European Commission inaction*', 6 July, 2016 (Index: [EUR 27/4405/2016](#)).

¹¹ A/HRC/33/9, recommendation 128.77 (Canada).

¹² A/HRC/33/9, recommendation 128.107 (Islamic Republic of Iran).