

Permanent Mission of Hungary

to the United Nations

New York

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!*

**Statement by**

**H.E. Ms Katalin Annamária Bogyay**

**Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations**

**On the occasion of the**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education**

**Third Committee of the General Assembly Agenda Item 72:**

**Promotion and protection of human rights**

**18 October 2019**

Mr Chair,

We thank Special Rapporteur Ms Koumbou Boly Barry for her report and presentation. Hungary firmly supports your mandate, and welcomes this year’s focus of the report on how the right to education contributes to the prevention of atrocity crimes and mass or grave violations of human rights.

The Hungarian government is strongly committed to respect, protect and fulfil the right to education as a key human right, as well as ensuring equality, inclusion and non-discrimination. To this end, the Government has been undertaking comprehensive reforms to improve the quality of and access to education for all and to increase educational attainment levels. These measures include providing free and compulsory kindergarten and primary education, free and accessible secondary education, and extending higher education opportunities and financial support to those receiving education. In order to reduce early school leaving, an early warning and pedagogical support system has been introduced, and special policies are in place to assist students with special needs and with disadvantaged background, including Roma students.

Madam Rapporteur,

We welcome the “ABCDE framework” proposed in your report, which reflects well Hungary’s approach to education. We strongly support your recommendation to include minority languages in bilingual education - Hungary provides mother tongue education to national minorities living in Hungary, upholds their right to preserve their cultural identity, and consistently advocates for this right to be upheld for Hungarian and other national minorities everywhere.

We fully share your view on the importance of education on past atrocities, and in this spirit, Holocaust education is a substantive part of the school curricula in Hungary.

Finally, we strongly believe that the right to inclusive and equitable quality education is key for prevention and sustainable peace. Education should also enable the next generation to access decent work and succeed professionally and prosper, and the Hungarian education system is tailored to prepare students to professional life and acquire necessary skills in this regard.

Thank you very much.