

Permanent Mission of Hungary

to the United Nations

New York

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**20 November 2019**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Katalin Annamária Bogyay,**

**Permanent Representative of Hungary to the UN**

**General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the Occasion of**

**the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Hungary aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

It is a great pleasure for me to celebrate the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child with all of you, and especially, to listen to the children who spoke today, because all we do here is *for* them, and *with* them.

This anniversary is a special one for us, as this year, we also celebrate the 30th anniversary of the democratic transition in Hungary. On this occasion, Hungary reaffirms its strong commitment to the full implementation of the Convention. We are proud to be among the first ones who joined the Global Pledge of UNICEF, reaffirming our relentless efforts to make the Convention a reality for every child.

Hungary’s Child Protection and Child Welfare System has gone through substantial transformation in the last 30 years. Hungary ratified the Optional Protocols of the CRC Convention *on the involvement of children in armed conflict*, and *on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*, as well as the *Lanzarote Convention* - the *Convention of the Council of Europe on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse*.

We strengthened our mechanisms to prevent and end violence, maltreatment, abuse and neglect, with special regard to high-risk families, through a line of interrelated measures and new instruments. We have implemented a Child Protection Notification System at local and regional levels to detect early signs of any forms of maltreatment. National and local authorities follow unified guidelines and methodology in delivering child protection and child welfare services.

This year, the Government introduced the Barnahus-model for child-friendly specialised investigation and therapy for neglected and abused children, with special regard to survivors of sexual abuse, as well as a comprehensive prevention, care and reintegration program for survivors of child sexual abuse through prostitution.

Mr/Madam Chair,

On this year’s 10th anniversary of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, we reaffirm our commitment to upholding the rights ofchildren without parental care by facilitating adoption, completing deinstitutionalization, and ensuring quality family-based care. We have encouraging results to share: child adoption rate has been growing since 2010; currently 70% of children under protection live in a family-based environment, and we aim to provide this opportunity to all children in the near future. In order to ensure a stable environment for children in foster care, we newly introduced permanent employment status and a comprehensive benefit package for registered foster carers.

And finally, the Government has implemented a comprehensive social policy to ensure inclusion and equal opportunities. In this framework, last year the Government introduced social assistance in kindergartens and schools; made school catering available for free for children in need, including during school holidays.

Mr/Madam Chair,

These are just a few examples attesting the commitment of Hungary to uphold the rights of the child and their best interest, because we believe that children are the common treasure of society, and the key to our future.

Thank you.