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**Intervention by
H.E. Ambassador Katalin Annamária Bogyay
Permanent Representative**

on the occasion of the

**Open debate of the Security Council on Women, Peace and Security:
“Promoting the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda and Sustaining
Peace through Women's Political and Economic Empowerment”**

25 October 2018

Your Excellency, Mr. President,

Honorable Members of the Security Council, Dear Colleagues,

Hungary aligns itself with the statement by the European Union to be presented later today.

I wish to thank Bolivia for providing us the opportunity to reflect on this extremely important topic. Hungary has been working proudly together with UN-Women, and especially salutes Executive Director Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka for her briefing.

Mr. President,

I am dedicating my speech today to an everyday hero, UN Goodwill Ambassador Ms. Nadia Murad, this year's Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. I wholeheartedly congratulate her for her commitment, courage and perseverance in her tireless efforts to end conflict-related sexual violence. Ms Murad is a shining example of how women can become powerful agents for peace, inspiring us to redouble our efforts for the prevention, protection and participation of women and girls in the context of conflict resolution, recovery and peacebuilding.

Mr President,

Hungary is a committed member of the WPS Focal Points Network and the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security.

We reaffirm the importance of the protection and promotion of the human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and strongly support their full inclusion, active, meaningful and institutionalized participation at all stages and levels of peace processes, in the implementation of peace agreements and wider decision-making structures.

The UN should be leading by example, and we commend the Secretary-General for achieving gender parity in senior positions at the UN.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective and protecting the rights of women and girls in peace and security initiatives, including the fight against terrorism and violent extremism is also a key aspect of the WPS Agenda.

Empowering women and girls survivors of conflict and violence is vital. Holistic, survivor-focused and community-led initiatives, including youth-led processes are main contributors in

enhancing access to justice, reconciliation and lasting peace. We support peace initiatives of local women and hope to see the important role of civil society and women-led organizations in sustainable peace recognized.

Women's increased participation in peacekeeping missions, as well as gender-sensitive strategies for the protection of civilians and humanitarian assistance are of key importance in providing the best assistance possible for women and girls affected by conflict. Hungary is seeking to continuously increase the number of deployed female military experts and police officers in UN peacekeeping missions.

Furthermore, we hope to see heightened attention to the needs of women and their meaningful participation in the planning and carrying out of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration activities, which play a vital role in preventing violent conflict.

Mr President,

The protection of the rights of women and girls and their economic empowerment is a powerful means of prevention of and protection in conflict, and a pre-requisite for their participation in all aspects of life.

Therefore, we should step up action on ensuring women and girls' right to safe, quality and affordable education, adequate and affordable healthcare, equal recognition before the law, and eliminating violence against women and harmful practices, just to name a few. Hungary provided financial contribution to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and girls to achieve these aims.

The Women, Peace, and Security Agenda is interrelated and interconnected. Therefore, for its effective implementation, we must ensure a holistic approach at local, regional and global level, using all tools available within the UN system, in close and comprehensive cooperation among all relevant actors and governments.

Mr. President,

History has shown that women's participation is crucial to achieve sustainable peace, and we reaffirm our commitment and call for a reinforced cooperation in this regard.

Thank you for your kind attention.