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

**on the occasion of**

**Security Council Arria Formula Meeting on  
“Protecting Children Born of Sexual Violence”**

**26 October 2018**

Your Excellency, Mr. President,

Honorable Members of the Security Council, Dear Colleagues,

Hungary aligns itself with the statement by the European Union.

Let me also join others in thanking today's briefers for their presentations.

Mr. President,

The issue we address today is, tragically, a long-standing challenge. Children have been born from conflict-related sexual violence throughout the centuries and in all parts of the world, and my own country is not an exception in this regard.

However, this is the first time that this issue is specifically addressed in the context of the Security Council, and we are deeply grateful for Poland, Bolivia, France and Germany for this breakthrough.

Hungary strongly condemns the widespread and growing use of sexual violence in armed conflict, which is often used purposefully as a tactic of war and terrorism, and a multi-faceted strategy to humiliate women, children and men, break down families, displace and dismantle communities, and shatter societies.

The stigma and shame associated with rape isolates not only victims, but also their children. The lives of children born of rape, including children born in captivity, is too often exposed to threats: infanticide, abandonment, neglect, abuse or rejection, including by their families and communities, and even if they survive, they will have to face cross-generational social and economic marginalization. These children should be treated and protected as victims.

States need to ensure comprehensive victim-centered cost-free services to survivors of rape and their children born, including physical treatment and psychological care, while providing effective remedies for social and economic justice, and harbor them from the impacts of stigma throughout the journey of recovery, reintegration, rehabilitation and follow-up.

Moreover, States should eliminate legal barriers which are marginalizing these children. They need to ensure that domestic law and policies guarantee children's legal recognition for the purposes of official documentation and registration, including birth registration, without the requirement of naming one or either parent. In order to avoid statelessness, it is paramount to grant these children citizenship, including through their mothers.

Conflict-related sexual violence and the subsequent stigma of survivors and children born of rape, unfortunately mutually reinforce each other, because stigma is not only the consequence, but the fundamental and intentional drive for sexual violence. Eliminating stigma, therefore, is a vital component of preventing future sexual violence, and thus upholding international peace and security.

All efforts to address stigmatization should be human rights-based, survivor-centered, gender- and age-sensitive, and specific to the type of exploitation endured. To fight the perpetrators'

strategy and foster social reintegration of survivors of rape and their children, we must take a holistic approach, and assist families and communities in transforming perceptions and attitudes through an effective cooperation among States, religious and traditional leaders and the local community. A supportive environment may open up opportunities for survivors to come forward and report, which could contribute to ending the culture of impunity, and strengthening the overall resilience of societies.

Mr. President,

Tackling stigma is not only potentially life-saving for survivors, but it also contributes to international peace and security. Hungary is committed in this endeavor, and I also encourage Members of the Security Council to keep this important issue on the agenda as a priority.

Thank you for your kind attention.