



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY

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**Security Council open debate on
Strengthening Multilateralism and the Role of the United Nations**

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**Intervention by
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Permanent Representative**

Your Excellency, Mr. President,

Honorable members of the Security Council, Dear Colleagues,

Hungary align itself with the position expressed on behalf of the European Union and let me add some further remarks in my national capacity.

We would like to thank the Chinese Presidency of the UN Security Council for organizing this debate at such an appropriate time, when the shifting geo-political landscape and questions regarding the ongoing changes in the established multilateral order increasingly dominate our discussions.

According to a saying in Hungary “Whose death is falsely claimed will live long”. The multilateral system and the rules based international order established after the Second World War endures and our work here at the United Nations is a testament to that. Nevertheless, one cannot hide the fact that the multilateral order and the United Nations itself is under pressure from emerging or recurring challenges and needs to adapt.

As the Secretary General stated in his message to world leaders during the high level week of the current General Assembly, we have a duty to promote and support a reformed, reinvigorated and strengthened multilateral system. The theme of the 73rd session “making the United Nations relevant to all people” also highlights this.

Reforms are inevitable for the United Nations. Hungary shares the view that the current transformational changes this Organization is undergoing have the potential to make it more able to deliver on its mandates and thus contribute to enhancing multilateralism. We are pleased to see that some parts of the Secretary-General’s ambitious reform agenda have already entered into the implementation phase and we hope that the remaining elements will follow closely. Since we are in the Security Council today, we must not forget that the reform of this principle organ of the UN is also long overdue. The modernization of the UN cannot be complete without adapting the UN’s main executive body to 21st century challenges.

Besides the commitment of the new leadership of the organization, Member States themselves also have to be ready to change the UN.

Stronger cooperation among the General Assembly, the Security Council, ECOSOC, as well as with the Chairs of subsidiary bodies could play an important role in strengthening multilateralism. It is more important than ever to enhance the performance of the Security Council that faces unprecedented number of conflicts and complex crises. To this end Hungary supports that the elected members should become active players of the game and seek opportunities to strengthen the voice of the wider UN membership in the Council and beyond.

The world is watching, therefore we believe that the 75th anniversary of the UN would provide the membership with a good opportunity to show some tangible results and continue to work towards thorough implementation. The UN should be better and we, member states should be better at communicating the tremendous work and importance the UN has.

Us, UN ambassadors love talking about multilateralism and multilateral diplomacy but we must also be better at practicing it, be better at dialogue, better at really listening to each other. We should also break the silos in our mindset and learn to better trust, better cooperate with each other.

Mr. President,

Facing today's complex challenges, it is not enough to react to conflicts. We have to address the multidimensional root causes of conflicts through prevention, mediation, the protection of human rights and sustainable development. Focusing on prevention and mediation is of key importance in defending and improving the multilateral order. Hungary remains committed to preventive diplomacy as well as building trust and reconciliation, The United Nations should use all available means at its disposal for early warning, mediation and seeking political solutions in order to prevent the outbreak of conflicts and reverse the escalation of hostilities.

Multilateralism is about inclusion: providing everyone with a seat at the table to participate, follow and resolve our disputes together, and learn from each other on the way. Human rights give a clear and powerful guidance in that regard.

The contribution of women to establishing and strengthening multilateralism has to be recognized. Some pioneer women representatives have been present at the foundations of the UN itself, making sure that women's rights are included in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They were breaking the glass ceiling and making a place for themselves at the table.

Still today, gender equality and parity needs to be achieved here at the UN and outside, and we recognize the Secretary-General for his leadership in achieving gender equality in UN senior-level positions.

Gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial in delivering effective multilateralism.

Full economic, social and political inclusion requires the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

Hungary is a committed supporter of the effective functioning of the most important human rights body, the Human Rights Council. The Human Rights Council has proved to be a key player, a central forum in the universal protection and promotion of human rights. However due to over politicization, selectivity, the polarized nature of positions, unmanageable workload – the HRC is less and less able to fulfil its tasks. It would be very important to de-politicize or de-ideologize the work of the Council and step-up efforts to re-build confidence among members and to seek for consensual track, even on divisive issues.

Mr. President,

It is perhaps less fashionable in this chamber, but when we talk about strengthening multilateralism, we must talk about Agenda 2030 and the Paris Climate Agreement as well, for any stable, sustainable multilateral order, the implementation of the goals laid down in these documents are absolutely essential.

Hungary has been committed to the Agenda 2030 from the very beginning. Our first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the SDGs this

July 2018 focused on the goals on water and sanitation, energy provision, sustainable cities, responsible consumption and production, and balance of ecosystems.

Water is not just a critical natural asset and an enabler for development, but also an important contributor to peace and security. It should not be seen as a source of conflict, but rather as a key factor to build peace and stability! Hungary is of the firm view that the prevention and resolution of the root-causes of water-related conflicts should be at the forefront of our work at the UN. The Hungarian Government is strongly committed to address climate change, and Hungary supported the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement by ratifying it as one of the first countries. We were among the first ones also to deposit the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on the occasion of the World Ozone Day in September.

Hungary strongly support the fight against terrorism, and believes the role of the UN should be better used and strengthened.

Mr. President,

We need stronger and better multilateral institutions to demonstrate the value of the multilateral system. We believe the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels and its commitment to an international order based on the rule of law and international law, which, together with the principles of justice, is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States.

International treaties and binding decisions are essential to harmonise international relations and should be interpreted and implemented in good faith in order to address emerging threats to political and economic stability and transnational and international crimes.

We commend the UN for continuing to meet the requests and needs of Member States in key areas such as ensuring effective and functioning justice and security institutions; accountability for serious crimes under international law; access to justice, in particular for marginalized persons; justice and security for women and

girls; anti-corruption and strengthening national institutions to prevent violence and counter terrorism and crime.

The international community observed the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute earlier this year. The Statute has stood the test of time, having created the International Criminal Court that has contributed not only to holding accountable the perpetrators of the most serious crimes, but also to assisting the victims of such crimes.

Mr. President,

As others have mentioned before me: in today's interconnected and globalized world, multilateral solutions have no real alternatives. Multilateralism will survive, but perhaps with international, multilateral institutions which are new or renewed and/or reinvented. Pushing us out of our comfort zones could be beneficial, if we – while standing firmly by our principles – are flexible enough to use the opportunities presented by the shifting landscape.

I thank you for your attention.