



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

Open debate of the Security Council
on
“Inclusive development for the maintenance of international peace and security”

19 January 2015

Intervention by
H.E. Ambassador Zsolt Hetesy
Deputy Permanent Representative

Your Excellency, Mme President,
Honorable members of the Security Council,

I wish to thank you, Mme President, for convening this timely open debate. I also wish to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Ambassador Patriota of Brazil, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Ms Leymah Gbowee for their informative briefings.

Mme President,

Hungary as Co-Chair of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, worked with Member States to ensure that the Outcome Document – in goal 16 – explicitly recognizes the linkage among peace, inclusion, sustainable development, justice and accountability. Member States – with consensus – agreed that the rule of law, equal access to justice, effective, accountable and transparent institutions as well as responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels are equally necessary for establishing peaceful and inclusive societies.

Hungary fully supports the statement of the European Union, but let me just add some special challenges we face in my part of the world.

1. Women, children, family

Hungary recognizes the power and unique skills of women in peace and development. Empowering women by investing in their education, strengthening their leadership capacities, as well as engaging them in decision-making are in each society's best interest. This is especially relevant in places where peace had broken down and conflict has shifted focus away from cooperation towards division and hatred. Rather than seeing women as victims of armed conflicts, more has to be done to promote their full and equal participation in all stages of peace processes. We also commend the Secretary-General for choosing the empowerment of women and children as one of his priorities for 2015.

Gender equality is an important public issue in Hungary, which is also reflected in policy decisions. We are committed to the effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality as contained in the Outcome Document of the Open Working Group.

According to the Hungarian position, in the framework of gender equality policy making, aspects related to the family as a whole and to its members need to be duly considered. In this context, we strongly support development efforts that are aimed at strengthening and protecting the vulnerable by creating policies in particular in the areas of work, social security, social protection, dignity and integrity, education as well as security. The twenty-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action provides another opportunity to highlight these issues.

2. Romas

One of the most serious impediments to development in Hungary is the situation of vulnerable groups living in poverty, including the Roma population. In order to overcome this challenge, the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy sets forth a comprehensive approach with projects in the areas of child welfare, education, employment, health care, housing and the fight against discrimination. As part of these efforts, Hungary supports the education of Roma children through a scholarship program, promotes entrepreneurship and job opportunities for Roma women through microcredit projects and skills development, and supports the access of Roma families to improved housing. We also established mechanisms to ensure the effective participation of minorities, including the Roma, at various levels of political decision-making from the local government to the Parliament.

3. National, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

Hungary strongly condemns all forms of discrimination and exclusion based on race, ethnicity, religion or any other status. The Hungarian Government for example has announced a zero tolerance policy against anti-Semitism. Crimes committed against religious and ethnic minorities or other vulnerable groups anywhere in the world demonstrate where radicalization and hatred can lead us. It helps us realize that the only way to achieve and preserve peace within and also among societies is through dialogue, tolerance, and the respect of cultural diversity. In this context, we are an active promoter of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and cooperation and will continue to make every effort to build bridges among various faiths, cultures and traditions.

4. Education, intercultural dialogue

Mme President,

Hungary is of the view that education is one of the most powerful weapons against discrimination and inequality. We believe that the realization of the right to education is the cornerstone of lasting peace, since ignorance, misunderstanding, the erosion of culture, and the loss of cultural identities are often the starting points for fanaticism.

Education has an important role both in preventing conflicts and in post-conflict peace building.

For this reason, Hungary welcomes a strong, stand-alone SDG on inclusive education which includes a target on the promotion of a culture of peace, nonviolence and appreciation of cultural diversity.

Thank you, Mme President.