



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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**Fourth Thematic Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group  
on the Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly:  
Strengthening the accountability, transparency, and institutional memory  
of the Office of the President of the General Assembly  
27 April 2018**

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

Distinguished Co-Chairs, USG Pollard, Head of Cabinet Ružicka,

I would like thank you for organizing this thematic debate on strengthening the accountability, transparency, and institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. Hungary aligns itself with the statements made by the ACT Group and the European Union and I wish to add the following comments in our national capacity.

Dear Co-Chairs,

I join other speakers in strongly welcoming the important measures reached in resolutions 70/305 and 71/323 adopted by consensus, that enhance accountability, transparency and institutional memory of the OPGA. The visible achievements, such as the open dialogue with PGA candidates; standardized format of the handover document between incoming and outgoing presidencies; the updated oath of office; periodical briefings to Member States as well as the preservation

of records of the Office clearly demonstrate the ability of this Ad hoc Working Group to deliver practical results that benefit the whole UN system and its membership.

We should keep this in mind and use it as a kind of normative during discussions on this years' draft resolution.

Dear Co-Chairs,

Now it is our duty to make sure both resolutions are fully implemented and to go even further if possible.

We appreciated the introductory remarks of President Lajčák, when he addressed the opening session of this forum in February and thank him for today`s report. Hungary commends his efforts in leading this assembly in general and as a member of the Group of Friends of Gender Parity, as well as personally, we congratulate him for reaching gender parity and geographical balance in his Office. In fact, 70% of OPGA staff are women and there is gender parity at all levels of decision-making within the Office; so this is one of the areas where President Lajčák is leading by great example. In addition to that, we also recognize the PGA`s efforts to ensure that almost all intergovernmental processes in the Assembly are led by gender-balanced teams of co-facilitators. This is a great achievement considering that only 20% of Permanent Representatives in New York are women. In addition, the current way of using modern communication tools by the OPGA not only further enhances transparency, but also contributes to the image this organization projects to the whole world. We encourage therefore future PGAs to build upon these best practices.

Dear Co-Chairs,

In his remarks the President also pointed out a few areas where the work of the OPGA can be further improved.

In our view, besides transparency, and accountability the Office also needs more stability, predictability, continuity, and less dependence on voluntary financial contributions from Member States or resources provided by the nominating Country. Although Hungary has been happily supporting the OPGA`s work. Reliable financial support as well as longer-term appointments could ensure equality in performance and effectiveness of the Office and could eliminate obstacles for some countries when considering nominations for this important post.

We hope that this session presents a real opportunity for the Working Group to replicate the success achieved over the past years and to continue with similarly transformative and beneficial changes.

With that, dear Co-Chairs allow me to thank you, and to all colleagues for your work during this years` series of thematic debates. We look forward to the discussions on the draft resolution.

I thank You.