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## **Building Trust: The Nexus to Preventing Violent Extremism**

**Remarks by  
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Mr. High Representative, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- One of the greatest challenges we face today is the expansion of violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism all over the world. Violent extremism poses a direct threat to international peace and security; hinders sustainable development and is marked by the violation of human rights. Hungary strongly condemns the terrorist acts committed by Da'esh and other terrorist groups, as well as individuals motivated by their false ideology.
- Last April, the *High-Level Thematic Debate of the General Assembly on Promoting Tolerance and Reconciliation*, with the participation of Your Excellency, Secretary General Al-Nasser, focused on **countering** violent extremism. Today, our goal is to go one step further, and discuss ways to **prevent** violent extremism by establishing a comprehensive approach to this multi-faceted challenge. This approach should address the conditions that lead to the rise of radicalization to violence, such as social, economic and political exclusion, cultural and religious intolerance and discrimination, and the violation of human rights. These are the problems that are exploited in order to lure marginalized individuals or groups into serving extremists' own, despicable purposes.
- The solution to this challenge requires **presenting an alternative to violent extremism**. The new narrative should be based on a culture of peace, mutual respect, religious tolerance, the appreciation of cultural diversity, and building an inclusive society, where human rights are respected.
- The four priority areas set out by the Alliance are more relevant than ever. Concerning the **media**, action should be taken to fight hate speech, and provide an efficient counter-messaging strategy. In this regard, Hungary welcomes UNAOC's social media campaign against hate speech (#SpreadNoHate). We also strongly support the intention of the Alliance to increase its role in mediation as a tool of preventive diplomacy. We believe that the Alliance can make a valid contribution to prevention of conflicts where culture or religion comes to play.
- We should pay particular attention to the **youth** – which constitutes one of the most vulnerable social groups, and is especially exposed to the threat of radicalisation -, education and the empowerment of young people create opportunities and a hope for a better future, which can serve as an alternative to violent extremism.
- The Alliance of Civilizations should work together more closely with the UN, with which it gained formal relationship last year, in order to attain these common objectives. Therefore, Hungary welcomes Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) recognising the important role of youth in the maintenance of international peace and security.
- Hungary also welcomes the initiative of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressing the issue of preventing violent extremism, and looks forward to the official presentation of the *Plan of Action* taking place today. Finally, the

successful implementation of the *Sustainable Development Goals* is also essential in addressing the conditions leading to violent extremism.

- Building trust is a key to this effort. Tolerance and the appreciation of cultural diversity creates trust among social, cultural and religious groups. Good governance creates trust in institutions. Continuous dialogue creates trust among nations. These are the aims that our nations, in the farmework of the Alliance of Civilizations as well as the UN should be striving for.
- Let me finish by expressing again the strong support of Hungary for the Alliance and for the goals it aims to achieve.