



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Check against delivery!

Intervention by
H.E. Ambassador Katalin Bogyay
Permanent Representative

on the occasion of the

'International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace'

24 April 2019

Your Excellency, Madam President,

Distinguished Colleagues, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the PGA for convening this important meeting today. Hungary aligns itself to the position expressed on behalf of the European Union nonetheless let me add some further remarks in my national capacity.

Madam President,

The world as we know it today faces many challenges; challenges that we, as members of the international community have to face and solve together. When the UN was established, 74 years ago, the goal of the leaders of the world was to make sure that we use multilateralism to avoid the terrible consequences of not working together for a better future. Since then, multilateralism had its peaks and lately, its ebbs.

Thought it is true that shifting geo-political landscape and questions regarding the ongoing changes in the established multilateral order dominate our discussions, and multilateral order is under pressure from emerging or recurring challenges, we - who believe in multilateral institutions, mindset and the power of dialogue – we still have to stand together.

Madam President,

We believe that multilateralism - and its underlining philosophy and state of mind - has to survive. It will persist, because it is common sense, because it is inevitable to strive for common frameworks to tackle today's challenges. But the continuation of the international institutions in their current form, - however intertwined they are in our lives – are far from certain, and perhaps it is also an inevitable fact. We should fight to preserve the achievements of the last 74 years, but we should accept the fact as well, that all institutions need to adapt and evolve: reforms are crucial, including the full implementation of the initiatives proposed by Secretary General Guterres.

The best constructed multilateral institutions are all just shiny shells without the converging political will of our leaders, and the support and hope of our citizens. If we want to have the full support of the world, if we want to make it work, the UN has to change with life, according to the demands. We need to be pro-active, demonstrate our mutual value to and our trust in each other and demonstrate our willingness to reform and burden-sharing. Good governance, either within or out of the “walls” of the UN, is measured by the transparency of its institutions and processes.

Multilateralism is all about action and reaction – demonstrated by us together. So prevention and mediation by all is of key importance in

defending and improving the multilateral order. We have to address the multidimensional root causes of conflicts through prevention, mediation, the protection of human rights and sustainable development. The best way to do that is through diplomacy.

Hungary is a strong supporter of preventive diplomacy, including cultural diplomacy, science diplomacy, water diplomacy, sports diplomacy, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, education and awareness-raising. Only a complex approach allows to successfully combat radicalization and intolerance, break down stereotypes, build trust and mutual respect and promote peaceful coexistence – all that is dearly needed in our multilateral world today. In this immense work, let's not forget women. Women have an important role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction. The inclusion of women is crucial in achieving sustainable peace. In today's interconnected and globalized world, multilateral solutions have no real alternatives.

My personal CREDO in multilateralism is the message of XX. century great Hungarian composer, Béla Bartók:

“My guiding philosophy has always been the idea of different nations uniting into brotherhood, in spite of all the wars and hostility. I have tried to serve the aims of this idea, as best as I can, in my music! So far

that reason I do not shrink away from any influence ... no matter the source, as long as it is pure, natural and vital.”

I thank you for your attention.