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Intervention by
H.E. Ambassador Katalin Bogyay
Permanent Representative

on the occasion of the

**Fourth thematic meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on GA
Revitalization:
Strengthening the accountability, transparency, and institutional
memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly**

30 April 2019

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Dear Colleagues, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, 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 statement made by the European Union and I wish to add the following comments in our national capacity.

Dear Co-Chairs,

Just last week we talked about the important role that multilateralism plays in every day's life, and on that thought I also emphasized that if we want to have the full support of the world, the UN has to change with life. And now, here we are talking about the revitalization of the UN, and most importantly strengthening the Office of the President of the General Assembly.

If we take a look into the past, the achievements are clear and strong indications for the future: 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 Working Group to deliver practical results that benefit the whole UN system and its membership.

I also warmly welcome the efforts of SG António Guterres on making the UN a gender-balanced organization. Hungary, also as a member of the Group of Friends of Gender Parity supports all efforts in this regard. It is to my delight that the present PGA is a female but don't let this "so-called-exceptional-case" even just for a moment silence our conscience on this question. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés is only the fourth women PGA out of the 73. Hungary encourages President-elect's to continue to strive for both gender and geographic balance within the OPGA.

Dear Co-Chairs,

During the last decade, the tasks and responsibilities of the PGA and the OPGA has grown exponentially, which the available financial resources did not follow. As we have expressed it many times before, it is vital that the OPGA operates with 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 (both with financial contributions and human resources), we believe that reliable and sustainable 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.

Dear Co-Chairs,

As the world evolves and changes, challenges rise and fall, the work of the PGA changes along. The role of the PGA and her Office are at their peak though the size of the Office still falls short of what is needed. With this in mind, I call on Member States to strengthen the Office with experts, unite our efforts to have a more capable and well-staffed crew behind the PGA.

Dear Co-Chairs,

As this is the last thematic debate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on revitalization I would like to take this opportunity to thank the two Co-Chairs for all their efforts, and we wish to assure them Hungary's continued willingness to engage in the most constructive way possible when discussing the draft resolution.

I thank you for your attention.