



KÜLGAZDASÁGI ÉS KÜLÜGYMINISZTERIUM

**Opening remarks by
Dr. László Szabó
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary
UN Day Gala Concert
New York, 24 October 2016**

Excellences,

Mr. Secretary-General, Mrs. Ban,

Mr. President of the General Assembly, Mrs. Thomson,

Madame Under-Secretary-General,

It is an honour to be here. Please allow me to welcome you on this very special occasion when we celebrate the 71st anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations' Charter. This charter is not only a simple founding document of the greatest international organization of mankind's history, but it's the source and symbol of the core values of the United Nations. Since its foundation the United Nations plays a significant role in protecting and promoting peace and security, development and human rights.

Hungary is very proud to organize this gala concert, as an active member of the United Nations since 1955. Our commitment is to act in the spirit of dialogue, openness, inclusivity and bridge-building in achieving the goals of the United Nations.

We are also pleased that this evening commemorates a historic event. 60 years ago the Hungarian people rose up against the communist dictatorship and made it clear that freedom comes first. In 1956, the entire world has learned about the heroic fight and despite the failure of the uprising, it was highly influential to the outcome of the Cold War. We believe that eventually these events led to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the fall of the Iron Curtain.

I would like to also thank the UN Secretariat that it has made the important decision to open up more than 400 pages of classified UN documents are now ready for research purposes, in order to get more details about the 1956 revolution and the comments made by the Hungarian Committee in 1956-57. We believe that this step contributes to transparency and further cooperation between our nations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Tonight, we can also pay tribute to the legacy of His Excellency of Mr. Ban Ki-Moon who will end his term at the end of the year, after serving the United Nations for 10 years. We thank him for his efforts making the Agenda 2030 a reality and being the Secretary-General of all the 7 billion people of the world.

I wish the United Nations a happy birthday, I wish you health and peace.

Thank you very much.