



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

**High-level meeting of the General Assembly
on
the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat
Trafficking in Persons
28 September 2017**

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

Mr. President, Your Excellences, Dear Colleagues,

Hungary, aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member State and welcomes the adoption of the Political Declaration on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Mr. President,

Human Trafficking is one of the **most horrific crimes of our times; it is an open wound on the body of humanity**. Sadly, it **occurs in every country and region, all around the world and therefore it is a truly outstanding global challenge**. Transnational criminal networks take advantage of the most vulnerable and marginalized members of societies. They not only **deprive their victims of freedom but also of human dignity**.

I am convinced that **we cannot win this fight alone**. There must be **effective cooperation and partnership** between the countries of origin, destination and transit as well as **among states**, international organizations, civil society, and business groups, including through the mechanism of ICAT, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons. We know that this requires enhanced **coordination**.

Hungary believes in dialogue, collaboration and coordination.

Hungary just hosted a panel discussion related to Human Trafficking on protecting religious minorities, followed by a UN conference of the **Global Sustainability Network** that has a growing **membership** of over 300 socially conscious philanthropists, business women and men as well as **influential change-makers across various sectors** of the globe. The event was an important demonstration of the role of **inter-religious dialogue in prevention** and in **tackling the root causes of human trafficking**.

The **Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade** hosted the **regional consultation workshop of Alliance 8.7 for Europe and Central Asia** jointly organized by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** and the **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)** this summer.

We also believe that **raising awareness** is crucial both at the national and global levels. In this respect, the **media, the advocacy groups and civil society in general can also contribute significantly**. This is the reason why **I hosted the Foreign Press Association Scholarship Fund Awards this May**, about the topic of human trafficking addressing „the role of the international media to shine a light on the great moral and societal issues of our times, not to sensationalize, but to hold accountable the governments, decision makers and civil society”.

With the same aim of putting modern slavery in the spotlight, Hungary works together with different media companies and film makers.

Besides empowering all stakeholders so that they become conscious **consumers**, vigilant **law enforcement** officers, trained **humanitarian** and **peacekeeping** personnel, dedicated **policy makers** and safe **internet users**. We need to empower **survivors** so that they feel safe enough to seek help and share their stories.

On these occasions we have put the question Why? Today I am asking how? How can we implement the Global Plan of Action more effectively?

First, our actions need to be tailored to the specific case at hand. Our response has to be **gender- and age-sensitive**, as well as **exploitation type-specific**. Our truly **human rights based, survivor-centered approach** to modern day slavery and human trafficking should be **based on the protection of survivors**, with a special focus on women and children.

Second, Prosecution and prevention should go hand in hand to fight trafficking in persons and stop modern day slavery. We advocate for **greater compliance with international humanitarian law** and **for accountability** by bringing the perpetrators to justice. We encourage the effective implementation of relevant international instruments, including the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Palermo Protocol and the 2014 ILO Protocol on Forced Labour, building on the technical and legislative support by UNODC and ILO.

Third, Collecting and analyzing data is equally of key importance. Hungary believes that **coordination and data sharing among Member States** and relevant actors should be **concentrated on and strengthened**. **We need multi-disciplinary teams in investigations. Interagency cooperation must start at the national level.** In Hungary, the investigating authorities quarterly inform the central supervision about the number and progress on investigations due to suspected money laundering under suspicious transactions. Police has to report to the Hungarian Financial Intelligence Unit, which is carrying out regular strategic analysis.

Fourth, **Investigations into human trafficking should always include parallel and complementary financial investigations of human trafficking networks. International judicial and law enforcement cooperation is fundamental.** We have to make sure that **any allegation of such crime** and money laundering under suspicious transactions **is investigated and prosecuted**. We need to **strengthen reporting mechanisms on human trafficking** and associated financial flows as well. **Preventing perpetrators from abusing the global financial system is a priority** of the Hungarian Anti-money laundering/Countering the financing of terrorism regime.

Fifth, ensuring **accountability is a must. States should step up their efforts in finding the perpetrators and bringing them to justice.** States should also train their immigration authorities, police forces, prosecutors and judges, and effectively carry out criminal procedures, with special regard to the sensitivities and the particular nature of these crimes.

Sixth, we should also explore **what role existing mechanisms tasked to investigate allegations of breaches and violations of international humanitarian law** (e.g. the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission) could play in ensuring that those crimes that they become aware of, however, which do not violate international humanitarian law are to be investigated by the competent authorities. In this spirit, **Hungary has offered voluntary contribution to the (IIIM) Mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the most serious crimes committed in Syria.** We also welcome the **first mandate** since the establishment of the International Humanitarian Fact-finding Commission (IHFFC) in 1991.

Mr. President,

Our commitment is to keep these issues **on the agenda as a priority**, and I encourage Member States to engage in a **reinforced cooperation** on law enforcement, investigations and information sharing.

We need planetary consciousness and to share our information, data, knowledge, and start coordinate our actions.

Let us work together!

I thank you for your attention.