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**Open Debate of the Security Council**  
**on**  
**“Maintenance of international peace and security: addressing complex  
contemporary challenges to international peace and security”**

**20 December 2017**

**Intervention by**  
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Your Excellency, Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-General, honorable members of the Security Council, dear Colleagues,

I wish to thank Japan for convening this important debate and Secretary-General Guterres for his briefing. While we align with the statement delivered by the EU, I wish to add a few observations in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

“Comprehensive”, “integrated” or “holistic” are not just buzzwords dominating our discussions at the UN nowadays, but real reflections and must needed calls for actions taking into account the intertwined challenges of our time. There are anchors to our work:

### **Putting further emphasis on prevention**

The need to shift our focus towards preventing conflicts as opposed to merely reacting to them is self-evident.

I believe that the only way to achieve and preserve peace within and among societies is through dialogue, I am hence encouraged by the dedication of the Secretary-General to start a surge in diplomacy. I would also like to reiterate Hungary’s firm commitment to the role of preventive diplomacy and mediation. To assist the UN in their activities in this field, the Government has also made voluntary contributions in 2016 and 2017 to DPA’s Multi-Year Appeal.

Preventive processes should include intercultural and interreligious dialogue and reconciliation, hand-in-hand with moderate religious and community leaders and faith-based organizations, in order to build trust and mutual understanding and respect. Cultural and science diplomacy, education and awareness-raising are key in this regard. This year’s World Science Forum held in Jordan and co-organized by Hungary proved the power of Science for Peace which encompasses the reconciliation and prevention of conflict.

## **We have to address peace, security and development in one.**

A smooth transition between political solutions, humanitarian action and development cooperation is key in ensuring that countries will not relapse into conflict. Sustainable Development is our best available tool in preventing conflicts and the Agenda 2030 created a new impetus for all organs and the entire Membership to work together in new ways. Besides changing the narrative, we all - UN organs and Member States alike – must change the way we operate.

There is no sustainable peace without respecting human rights and international humanitarian law. Member States, in partnership with international organisations and civil society, should build resilience in the societies against risks of destabilization and radicalization. This should start with the protection of the most vulnerable: Hungary fights for the rights of national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; women, girls and children, among others, through ensuring that their human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, untapped. We have to fight modern day Slavery, human trafficking in every corner of the world.

Excellencies,

Addressing complex contemporary challenges to international peace and security is a daunting task, one that no country can achieve on its own. Our mission is to make sure that we combine our efforts, use the considerable tool at our disposal and make sure that “comprehensive” “integrated” and “holistic” will not remain mere words.

## **Water – a source of life but conflicts as well**

Hungary is committed addressing water related challenges.

The scarcity of fresh water resources constitutes a serious challenge to the international community. Today, nearly 1 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water and more than a quarter of the world population lacks access to adequate sanitation services. Countries and regions should undertake coordinated

efforts and adopt both urgent and long-term measures on water resources management. It is truer now than ever before that “water connects, it does not divide”, which has been the motto of the successful Budapest Water Summits in 2013 and 2016.

The dialogue on the UN’s work on the water-related SDG goals and targets what I co-moderated with Tajikistan under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly revealed that besides the strengthening of UN-Water, the added value and drawbacks of platforms should be explored to provide coherent policy guidance and oversee monitoring and follow-up.

I encourage convergences so that water can find its best place at the UN development system.

### **Taking the reform forward**

Mr. President,

Today we have a rare opportunity in front of us to help both the organization and its Member States to address the structural shortcomings and empower the UN to move out of the functional silos, integrate the approach of prevention and to enhance the coherence of activities of the UN in the field.

It is more important than ever to enhance the performance of the Security Council that faces unprecedented number of conflicts and complex crises.

The world has seen too often devastating consequences due to the non-action of the Security Council in situations that might or actually escalate into atrocity crimes. Therefore, as a member of the ACT group, let me reiterate our call for member states to join the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes already signed by 114 Member States.

## **Empowerment of Women**

Mr. President,

We can not address enough the role of women, maintenance peace and security. Each century has its defining moral issue. If slavery was the towering moral issue of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the fight against totalitarianism and colonialism dominated the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The rights of women and the struggle to uphold them in every corner of the world will be the moral imperative of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Thank you.