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Open debate of the Security Council
on
Women, Peace and Security
27 October 2017

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

Your Excellency, Mr. President,

Honorable members of the Security Council, and Dear Colleagues,

Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

I wish to thank France for providing us the opportunity to reflect on this extremely important topic.

Let me also join others in thanking H.E. Ms. Maria Luiza Riberio Viotti, Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, H.E. Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, H.E. Ms. Michaëlle Jean, Secretary-General of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie as well as Ms. Charo Mina-Rojas, NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security for their informative briefings.

Mr. President,

The general empowerment of women and girls, and the promotion of gender equality, are cornerstones of our agenda. Hungary strongly supports efforts aimed at increasing women's meaningful participation at all stages and levels of peace processes. We also encourage Member States to support women's engagement in local, national, and global decision-making structures, including participation of women in electoral processes.

The issues on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda are interrelated and interconnected and must be addressed as such. For effective implementation of the WPS framework at the national and international level, close and comprehensive cooperation is needed among institutions and governments. We must ensure a holistic approach from the local to the global level using all tools available within the UN system. We believe that the 2030 Agenda creates an impetus for all Member States and UN organs to work together, without changing the authority of any organ as set forth in the Charter. Therefore, the effective implementation of Agenda 2030 is essential.

Hungary as an active member of the WPS Focal Points Network continues to engage in inter-ministerial consultation processes with the goal to establish a national mechanism on the implementation of the tasks deriving from the WPS Agenda. The Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade also plans to organize an awareness-raising workshop on Women, Peace and Security for the

experts of the relevant ministries, the army, the police, peacekeeping personnel as well as for interested CSOs and academics.

Hungary is deeply concerned about the growing threat and use of violence against women Human Rights Defenders. We are appalled to see the repression of those standing in the front lines protecting and promoting human rights and gender equality. As it is stated in the latest report of the Secretary General „*the repression of human rights, particularly women’s human rights for freedom of speech, assembly, and other fundamental rights, correlates with impending conflict as an early warning sign.*” We should step up our efforts in combating this dangerous phenomenon more effectively and develop a horizontal and specialized response.

Youth engagement is important to forging sustainable peace and development. We believe that governments should facilitate the participation of young people, especially girls, in public life and public discourse. We need to empower girls so that later they become strong women and active members of their societies by creating opportunities for them to increase their involvement in developing programs and shaping policy-making. For this reason, Hungary proudly elected its first female youth delegate to the UN this year.

Similarly, women’s increased participation in peacekeeping missions is of utmost importance. Their contribution could be particularly useful in designing, implementing and assessing strategies for the protection of civilians and humanitarian assistance. We are pleased to see the continued efforts of DPA, DPKO and DFS in building staff capacity and senior level accountability on gender and WPS. Hungary is seeking at the national level, to continuously increase the number of deployed female military experts and police officers in UN peacekeeping missions.

Mr. President,

Ending the culture of impunity is a major contributor to conflict prevention and sustaining peace on national and international levels. Since ensuring accountability for serious crimes helps us to bring about reconciliation, address injustice, promote human rights and build peaceful, stable and resilient societies.

We highly appreciate the work of the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict. Moreover, Hungary is proud to contribute with 70.000 USD to the invaluable work of the gender advisers deployed in the

framework of a collaboration between UN Women and Justice Rapid Response, as well as UN Women's work on preventing violent extremism.

Mr. President,

In conflict-affected areas, women are agents for peace. They play a key role in ensuring family livelihoods in the midst of chaos, and are particularly active in community building and peace movements at the grassroots level. Women's talent not only should be fully utilized in political decision-making but also in countering violent extremism, at the local, national, and international level. We support peace initiatives of local women and hope to see that the important role civil society and women-led organizations play in peace processes is recognized.

We also encourage the Security Council to continue promoting women's participation and gender mainstreaming, as part of inclusive peacebuilding processes and post-conflict recovery efforts.

Mr. President,

History has shown that women's participation is vital to peacebuilding and to the creation of peaceful and inclusive societies. My personal commitment is to keep this important issue on the agenda as a priority, and I encourage Member States to engage in a reinforced cooperation in this regard.

Thank you for your kind attention.