

**Intervention of Ms Zsófia Rácz, UN Youth Delegate of Hungary,
on the occasion of the Third Committee General discussion on Agenda Item 27
(Social Development)**

Madam/Mr Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Youth Delegates,

I am honored to be here today representing all young people from my beloved country, as the second youth delegate of Hungary to the United Nations.

Hungary has joined the youth delegate program last year, which means that we are at an early stage and still have a lot to learn, but it also means that we have lots of opportunities and perspectives regarding the future.

I would like to highlight that I fully acknowledge the work of my predecessor who has been more than successful in the past year, and I learned a lot from him. Stepping into his shoes, I am as dedicated as he was to make the voice of the Hungarian youth heard.

As a youth delegate, I have two tasks to fulfil. To represent Hungarian youth in the United Nations and vice versa, to represent the United Nations among Hungarian youth. I believe the only way for me to genuinely complete my mandate is to directly get in touch with young people.

The question arises: How do we do that?

Hungary's answer to that question is that we, youth delegates, are touring throughout the whole country, visiting all counties of Hungary, in order to get in touch with the youth. Our purpose is to promote the sustainable development goals among them, within the framework of presentations, workshops, Model United Nations simulations, and also informal discussions.

Step-by-step, we get to discover that **young people are able not only to recognize the problems existing in their local environment, but they also have a lot of innovative ideas for solving those problems.** The aim is to come up with future-proof ideas and solutions that we will be able to pass through to future generations. We need to create solutions that not only work within a time limit but will also work in the future. In other words, **to reach sustainable goals, we need sustainable solutions.**

Who are the ones, who can contribute to creating such solution? Who are those, who represent hope and future?

Quoting Secretary General, Mr. António Guterres: *“Young people are exactly my hope”*. He also said: *“Young people are an enormous asset to our society”*. Indeed, we can be an enormous asset to our society, but it is only possible if we are engaged in the process of decision-making, as well as in the process of implementation. **Young people need to sense ownership of the matters concerning them in order to develop confidence towards**

decision-making. As soon as they see tangible results of their work, they will be even more motivated and dedicated. It is an undeniable fact that many experts working on youth policies possess such tools and experiences that make them think they do not need to ask for the opinion of the youth. The truth is, they do. All of us does. How do we want to implement our solutions if we do not speak the language of young people? How do we want to engage them, if we do not use their way of communication? **Without intergenerational dialogue, we may see face to face, but we will not see eye to eye.**

Talking about effective communication, let me shortly present to you what we learned from the Hungarian youth while touring across the country. We wanted to know what the most important sustainable development goals are for them, so we conducted a survey among Hungarian young people.

The results of our survey show that besides goal 8 - decent work and economic growth - and goal 10 - reduced inequalities -, **the most important goal in Hungary for the youth is Goal number 4, quality education. Young Hungarians believe that an education system with a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical skills would be more beneficial for their future jobs.** I was glad to read the statement of Mr. Guterres saying that as a former teacher, he knows the value of education. I firmly believe that education is a core value of humanity, without which we will not be able either to understand or to change the world around us. Also, I believe it is a core goal, without which we will not be able to achieve the other 16 Goals.

As I conclude, I would note that throughout the history of Hungary, young people were always willing to raise their voices and fight for their rights. If they had to, they sparked revolutions and introduced reforms.

I strongly believe that time has come when Hungarian youth - and every young person all around the world - should be provided with a secure and peaceful environment in which they can live a happy and healthy life.

In close cooperation with my fellow youth delegates, I will do my best in order to create such a peaceful atmosphere, because I believe that **BUILDING PEACE IS BUILDING FUTURE.**