



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

2 November 2017

Statement by Mr. Zoltán Varga, Deputy Permanent Representative

Report of the Human Rights Council

General Assembly Third Committee

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank the President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Joaquín Alexander Maza Martelli, for presenting the Council's annual report to the UN General Assembly.

Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to highlight the following issues in our national capacity.

One of the cornerstones of Hungary's foreign policy traditionally lays in the commitment to international cooperation aimed at sustainable peace and development through **promoting effective multilateralism, human rights and fundamental freedoms**, including the rights of minorities, democracy and the rule of law.

We believe that the respect for human rights is a pre-requisite for peace, security and development, and the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms constitute the best universal frame to ensure the respect for and the promotion of human rights. Hungary has been an active supporter of the Council since its establishment in 2006, including by taking a leading role in introducing resolutions on the independence of the judiciary and on the question of reprisals. We are currently holding a **membership for the second time**, for the period of 2017 to 2019.

Consensus-building on issues such as minority rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, the fight against all kinds of discrimination, the protection of persons and groups in vulnerable situations are all of utmost importance to us. We are committed to fostering cooperation between members of the Council by **playing a facilitating role** between countries with diverse cultural, social and economic backgrounds.

As a former co-chair of the Open Working Group on the **SDGs**, Hungary has a firm and longstanding dedication to the realization of this universal and ambitious roadmap, in which the Human Rights Council's role is substantial.

In order to alleviate the extensive workload of the Council and avoid its further politicization, it would be very important to **de-politicize the work of the Council, step up efforts to build confidence among members and seek for a consensual track, even on divisive issues**.

We consider as one of the most significant achievements of the 36th session of the Human Rights Council the adoption of the resolution on „**Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights**”. The resolution was facilitated by the core group of Hungary, Fiji, Ghana, Ireland and Uruguay. After 4 years of impasse, we consider the adoption of the resolution on “reprisals” a major step forward. We trust and hope that the adoption of the Human Rights Council report in New York will be a consensual and smooth process.

Hungary attaches particular importance to the unhindered work and integrity of the Special Procedures mandate holders, the “eyes and ears” of the Human Rights Council. It is in this spirit that we maintain an open invitation for the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and encourage other states to do the same.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me reaffirm Hungary’s deep commitment to the strengthening of the international human rights mechanisms and, in particular, of the work and the functioning of the Human Rights Council.