



As delivered

Statement

by

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Dear colleagues,

It is an honour for me to stand here in front of such a distinguished audience especially in 2016 - the year, which marks the 60th anniversary of 1956 when Hungarian people stood up and fought for their freedom against the communist oppression. In 1956, Hungary has not received external help and our revolution and fight for freedom was defeated. But the heroic efforts of our freedom fighters gave us strength to survive the dictatorship and to finally gain freedom in 1990. So today, I can stand here in front of you as a representative of a free and proud nation. A nation which is proud of her traditions, culture, Christianity and fights for freedom in the past.

Mr. President, Dear colleagues,

Obviously, there is no need to state here that the world has been facing enormous global challenges. Challenges that recently led to dramatic changes in the world order we have been used to. Let me just emphasise three of these important factors that led to the change of the world order: All of us witness and unfortunately experience the worldwide spread of terrorist organisations. Day-by-day, we witness the destabilisation of some key and vulnerable regions of the world. And day-by-day we experience the fact that around 60 to 65 million people globally are on the move or being displaced because of various reasons.

These three factors have led to dramatic changes in the world order. I think that it is not an exaggeration any more to say that we are in the 24th hour to divert these changes to a positive direction. But in order to reach this target, we have to be successful globally, together, all of us, in carrying out three global policy efforts.

Number one: we have to eliminate the key factor of global terrorism, namely, we have to eliminate ISIS. Until we finally destroy ISIS, there will be no peace and no stability in the Southern and Southeastern neighbourhood of Europe, namely in the Middle East and the North African region. Until we finally destroy ISIS, thousands and thousands of people will still be forced to leave their homes. Until we finally destroy ISIS, Christian communities will still be threatened and will be under extremely heavy attacks. Until we finally destroy ISIS, migratory pressure will not decrease on Europe.

Number two: we have to eliminate the global network of human traffickers. We have to destroy their business models and we have to admit that these networks have caused the death of thousands of innocent people. I guess we all agree that their crimes against humanity must not remain unpunished.

Number three: we have to change the migratory policies which inspire people to take the life hazard, which inspire people to violate borders and which inspire people to move to countries that are multiple thousands of miles away from their homes. Migration, and the challenge of migration is an extremely serious issue.

That is why instead of emotional debates we need debates based on common sense and rationality. Instead of accusing and bashing each other, we have to stand on the very stable basis of international law. I think it is especially proper to say it in this very house. International law says that the right to a safe life is a fundamental human right, but to pick a country where you want to live in is not a fundamental human right. We have to make it clear that there is no excuse for violating borders between two safe and peaceful countries.

Mr. President, Dear colleagues,

I am proud to report to you that with the policies we have been carrying out in Hungary, we successfully contributed to the diversion of the recent global challenges in the right direction.

Hungary is among those 23 countries in the world that send troops to fight against ISIS. 143 Hungarian men and women have been taking part in actions against ISIS, serving in Iraq as a force protection unit and as trainers of the peshmergas. We have sent significant amount of ammunition to the peshemerga army and we have been taking part in the rehabilitation program of the wounded peshermega. We are also just about to start to carry out training for the officials of the Iraqi army.

In this case, Mr. President, I would like to mention that we urge the International Criminal Court to start to investigate crimes committed by ISIS against the Christian communities. We regret, and we find it unacceptable, that after sending letters to the Prosecutor General of the ICC, no real action based on this initiative has been made. We are of course also sad because the Security Council was not ready to refer the situation in Syria to the ICC either.

I would like to take the opportunity here to inform you that the Hungarian government has establishes a state secretariat, which monitors the situation of Christian communities all over the world and whether there are persecutions against these Christian communities, and organises help for such communities when and where it is necessary. We want to avoid that these cruel crimes committed against Christian communities remain unpunished.

Number two, ladies and gentlemen, regarding human trafficking, the Hungarian parliament has adopted stringent regulations against human traffickers which can serve as best practice in the global struggle against smuggling networks.

Number three is migration. Ladies and gentlemen, Hungary puts the security of the Hungarian people at the first place. We have protected our borders so far and we will not allow mass violations of our borders in the future either. We have to make clear that in the meantime there are migratory policies all around the world that have failed. Migratory policies, which consider every migrant refugee, have failed. Migratory policies, which want to force countries to receive thousands of migrants against the will of their own citizens, have failed. And migratory policies based on accusation of countries who protect their own borders have failed as well.

Mr. President,

The uncontrolled and unregulated mass migration offered opportunity for terrorist organisations to send their fighters and their terrorists to other countries and continents. The outcome and the consequence of this uncontrolled and unregulated mass migration in Europe is a growing threat of terror and a worsening public security situation. It is obvious now that people in Europe expect European politicians to put the restoration of security in Europe at the top of all European policies.

Our position, dear colleagues, is absolutely clear: We have to take help where it is necessary. We have to help the people to stay as close to their homes as it is possible because this will allow them to return to their home as soon as the crises are over. This is why we, the international community, have to support Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and the Kurdish Regional Government in Iraq. These countries and this region have been taking care of millions of refugees and if we do not help them and these countries and regions become unstable, these people will take the life hazard and will hit the road towards Europe and Europe will not be able to take such kind of a challenge.

Hungary has contributed 3 million euros to the Madad Fund, made a 5 million euro pledge to build a hospital in Syria and offered a special scholarship program for youngsters from Syria to Hungary. Again, because we have to take the help where it is needed.

Mr. President, Ladies and gentlemen,

We have to link our development projects and funding programs to conditionality. I think we expect with a good reason that the beneficiary countries carry out the necessary reforms in order to create conditions for people not to be forced to leave their homelands.

The United Nations must play a very important role in settling these serious conflicts and in overcoming these serious challenges. But in order for the UN to be able to play an important role in all of this, we need credibility. This is why Hungary has joined the ACT (Accountability, Coherence, Transparency) group here within the UN. We think we have to improve accountability and transparency of the United Nations.

This especially refers to the selection process of the Secretary-General. We would like to congratulate the President of the 70th session of the General Assembly, Mr. Lykketoft, to have entered the selection process into a new phase, by organising hearings and increasing the role of the General Assembly in this process.

Dear colleagues,

Let me speak as a representative from a country of Central Europe. The Central European region has to face pretty difficult and complicated challenges regarding energy security, there's a war in Ukraine, we have tensions in the Western-Balkan region and we have to deal with the Russia-Europe relationship.

The Central and Eastern European countries form a group here within the UN from which there has been no Secretary-General so far during the more than 70-year history of the United Nations. We are now seeking the generosity of all other four groups to have a Central European Secretary-General of the United Nations this time. A Secretary-General from Central Europe, who would understand the mind-set of the Central European people, who would understand the region and who would understand its challenges. Such a Secretary-General would be very helpful to the Central European countries to overcome some historic tensions and challenges.

Finally, Mr. President, Dear colleagues, Your Excellencies,

I am honoured to announce Hungary's candidature to the Human Right Council for the term 2017-2019. We appreciate those countries who have already pledged to support the Hungarian candidature. I would like to make sure that we are ready to continue to work together with our fellow Member States in the United Nations to contribute to making the human rights mechanisms of the UN more effective in order to create a better world for everyone.

Mr. President, Dear colleagues, Excellencies, thank you very much for your kind attention.