



REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY



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Statement

by

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*Fifty-second Session of the
Commission on the Status of Women*

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to represent Hungary here at the 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

I would like to commend you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Bureau on its important work.

Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment is an essential part of the UN mandate. There is strong evidence that improving gender equality reduces poverty and stimulates growth and provides channels to attaining other MDGs. We are pleased to recognize that some albeit slow progress has been made on MDG 3. Therefore, it is crucial that we enhance our capabilities and capacities on our national level.

Hungary is deeply committed to improving the situation of women and to creating a real equality between women and men. We do believe that women's rights are fundamental human rights. It is our joint responsibility to work towards their implementation.

Last year I talked briefly here about the situation of women in Hungary, and I am happy to inform you that we have been able to do even more. Last year several measures were taken in Hungary that will have significant and long term effect on the situation of women. We have started to prepare the implementation of a so called Strategic Plan which is the working plan to achieve equality between women and men. With

regard to the priority theme of the current session, let me inform you that our Strategy includes the principle of gender budgeting. This is the first time that such a concept appears in a Hungarian official governmental document.

Preparing government budget is a key element of the responsibilities of any government and governmental agency. When you assess a budget in detail, you can get a clear idea what the priorities of the given country are. Improving access to resources to all and empowering women is a task that all countries should have as a priority.

Nevertheless, it is not easy to change the present system of distribution of resources which affects women negatively. We are looking forward to adopting a set of agreed conclusions that could serve as a useful vehicle in our national policies to achieve gender sensitive public finance policies.

Let me turn now to another important issue that is the equal participation of men and women in decision-making.

In 2007, the issue of parliamentary quotas was put on the agenda of the Parliament in Hungary, generating an unprecedented dialogue on the role and situation of women in decision making. Unfortunately, however, the quota, as it was planned, did not become part of the legislation. Thus it became clear by now that a proposal of this importance that generates so

much debate in society must be preceded by much more thorough professional preparation and social awareness raising.

It is also clear that we have to fight for the improvement of the situation of women together with men, and we need as many men who are committed to improving the situation of women as possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

If we join efforts to implement the Secretary General's initiative on the fight against violence against women, it could be a defining moment in the history of CSW. Hungary is ready to work closely on that important initiative.

Since violence against women remains hidden very often, in spite of all the efforts of many years, Hungary also joined the campaign all around in Europe called "Stop Domestic Violence Against Women".

Hungary is one of the countries with external borders of the European Union at the moment. Accordingly, we have to be prepared for increased immigration in the coming years, and we have to create now the conditions that are needed to help the migrant and asylum seeking women at the best level we can.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Even though the following issue is not on our agenda, let me say a few words of the idea of establishing a new UN gender entity. The strengthening of the United Nations capacity to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and more effectively mainstream the gender issues, including at country level, is essential for the achievement of all our commitments.

That is the appointment of a dedicated high level official at the Under Secretary General level is an appropriate way to achieve this objective. All existing or new negotiating avenues should be explored to ensure a speedy reform in this area.

Empowering women and equal access to resources should be the basis upon which we can build and achieve real equality between the genders. We do have adopted the essential legal instruments for the advancement of women and gender equality. Now, our job is to work hard for their implementation.

It is my sincere hope that on the basis of achievements of the present session of the CSW, we can continue to contribute successfully to that goal.

Thank you for your attention.