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TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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**STATEMENT
BY**

**H.E. MR. PÁL SCHMITT
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 65th SESSION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, September 24, 2010

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr. President, on the assumption of your duties as President of the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly and also express my delegation's appreciation to your predecessor, H.E. Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki for his dedicated work done during the 64th session.

Mr. President,

As an engaged member of the United Nations, Hungary wishes to take its part in the international efforts aimed at constructing our common future. In this spirit, we do our utmost in contributing to the crisis management and peacekeeping operations of the international community and seek to deliver special added value to international development and humanitarian activities. I can assure you, that as a candidate country to the UN Security Council for the period 2012-2013, Hungary stands ready to work vigorously in overcoming divisions and strengthening global partnership in today's interdependent international environment.

Mr. President,

The preamble of the Charter states that We the people of the United Nations are determined, *inter alia*, and I quote, "*to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom*" and, for this end, "*to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples*".

In the year 2000, the United Nations took leadership in the articulation and adoption of the Millennium Development Goals. Contributions made at the MDG Summit a few days ago reassured me that although most of us suffer from the fallout from the recent global crises, none of us would be ready to agree with the vision of a looming future that might result from the slowing down of real actions made. Hungary stays determined to take its share of responsibility in realizing the MDGs on a global scale and will continue to implement donor programmes in various parts of the world.

Mr. President,

The effects of the recent global financial and economic crisis have thrown millions of people into poverty, especially the most vulnerable ones in the developing world. The food, water and energy crises, humanitarian disasters, such as the latest earthquake in Haiti and the floods in Pakistan, have also taken their toll on the lives of populations. The growing number of disasters emphasizes the importance of prevention, preparedness and disaster risk reduction. Development activities centred on the promotion of sustainable economic growth are strongly needed.

Hungary believes that in order to achieve success and effectively meet the needs of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups amidst these turbulent times, a partnership-based approach is to be adopted in this regard.

Similarly, Climate Change figures high among the paramount challenges of the 21st century that threatens our well-being, security and economic development. The international community should pay particular attention to the well-founded and legitimate concerns of the small island states of the Caribbean and the Pacific in this regard. Now, our primary goal should be the adoption of a series of ambitious, action-oriented decisions at the upcoming negotiation sessions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancún, Mexico, and thus prepare the ground for the adoption of a comprehensive and legally binding global framework next year in South Africa. As a Member State of the European Union, Hungary is committed to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by 20% until 2020. Moreover, we are also ready to undertake further emission reductions if our partners make similar commitments, taking into account their different capabilities.

Mr. President,

The promotion and protection of human rights constitute the cornerstone of Hungary's foreign policy.

Hungary acts at the forefront of international efforts to fight all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on national or ethnic origin. We are of the view that the rights of minorities, with special regard to the preservation of their cultural identities and linguistic heritage, should be high on the agenda of the international community. We believe that flourishing minority communities do not weaken a society, but on the contrary, they contribute to the cultural enrichment of a country. Fruitful relationships between the majority and the minority can only be pursued if human rights are not being infringed and tolerance prevails at all levels of society. This is one of the reasons why Hungary has decided to establish the Budapest based Tom Lantos Institute, an international centre for promoting human rights and spreading the value of tolerance.

Hungary also feels compelled to raise the issue of women worldwide. The possible role played by women in accelerating the achievement of MDGs, diminishing tensions and hostilities in the world should not be neglected. We are confident that the recent establishment of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women marks a significant progress in this regard and will largely contribute to the elimination of women's disadvantages.

Mr. President,

Let me express Hungary's sincere gratitude to the Secretary-General for convening, on this very day, a high level meeting on the disarmament machinery. A new dynamics in this area has also been clearly demonstrated at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference earlier this year, and we are hopeful that the renewed international commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation will lead to success.

We view with great concern, however, that the growing consensus around an ultimate goal of a so-called "Global Zero" in nuclear weapons is offset by overt and covert attempts at weapons of mass destruction and missile proliferation by certain countries.

Hungary fully supports the statement made in New York on September 22nd by EU High Representative Ashton, on the negotiations conducted between the E3+3 powers and Iran.

Mr. President,

International terrorism is also one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Hungary strongly condemns this phenomenon in all its forms and manifestations and underscores the pivotal role of the United Nations in counter-terrorism. We welcome the fact that the recently concluded second review conference of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy reinforced the consensus among member states to foster a global counter-terrorism alliance, and while expressing our full solidarity with the victims of terrorism, we lend our unequivocal support to all UN efforts in this regard.

Almost a decade ago this city suffered one of the most horrendous terrorist attacks in human history. The appalling statement made by one of the speakers yesterday concerning this tragic event is unacceptable and is detrimental to the noble cause of promoting mutual understanding and dialogue between religions and civilizations.

Mr. President,

The United Nations was created, and let me again quote from the preamble of the Charter, in order to "*practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours*".

Coexistence and co-operation would serve regional stability in the Western Balkans, a region which, due to its proximity to Hungary's borders, has great importance in our foreign policy. In our view, progress towards the stabilization of the region and resolution of its still existing problems should be the result of an essentially internally driven process, with the unwavering support of the international community. Hungary respects the recently issued advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on Kosovo and our country remains strongly committed to encouraging a direct dialogue between the countries and communities of the region.

In Afghanistan, the international community in general, and the countries in the region in particular should assist efforts for reconciliation, good governance and sustainable development. Strengthening state institutions at all levels, improving the security situation and effectively implementing the civilian development programmes, are all essential for decreasing tension and transferring the responsibilities and leadership to the Afghan Government. Hungary remains committed to supporting Afghanistan politically and we will do our best in providing assistance to the country through both bilateral and multilateral channels.

We envisage the establishment of an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian state, living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours. We also believe that the Middle East Peace Process should and can lead to an overall Arab-Israeli reconciliation. We all know: it takes brave men to start a war, but it takes statesmen to finish it. In this spirit, Hungary welcomes and strongly supports the fact that the proximity talks have recently transformed into direct talks between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. We commend the personal commitment of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made in this regard, the efforts made by the Quartet, including the European Union, as well as the valuable contributions of a number of outstanding Arab statesmen to this cause.

Acting on her own, as well as within the UN framework, Hungary is partner to African countries in enhancing development and establishing peace and security on the continent. We equally encourage Africa's voice to be heard in relation to compelling global questions such as water management, poverty eradication and the empowerment of women. Still, we once again emphasize the significance of the role of the African countries themselves and the importance of dialogue and negotiations in this process.

Mr. President,

Hungary regrets that the recent postponement of the Resolution on the Participation of the European Union in the work of the United Nations. I can assure all our partners that we are ready to continue consultations to ensure agreement from UN member states on this important initiative and we look forward to reverting to the General Assembly for a positive decision. As a country to hold the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first half of 2011, Hungary has a vested interest to find a solution enabling the EU to contribute in a more effective manner to the activities of the United Nations.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me, as an Olympic champion, emphasize my strong belief that multilateral partnership can only be enhanced by respecting the jointly established rules, with special regard to those of fair play with other teams and players on the field. I am confident that in the upcoming work session, the noble principles of the United Nations will continue to guide all delegations in strengthening the kind of global cooperation within the UN machinery that is so strongly needed to tackle today's challenges. I wish to assure you that Hungary stands ready to do its utmost to contribute to this goal.

Thank you for your attention.