



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. Dr. Péter BALÁZS  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 64th SESSION  
OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**New York, September 28, 200**

Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on the assumption of the high post of the President of the 64th session of the General Assembly. In fulfilling your challenging tasks during this session, you may rest assured of the support and cooperation of the delegation of the Republic of Hungary.

Mr. President,

The current session of the General Assembly begins its work against the backdrop of an extraordinary downturn of the world economy. Hungary was among those countries which were especially hard hit by the storm of the current financial and economic crisis. In order to cope with its consequences, the Hungarian Government has adopted and implemented a series of stabilization measures. As a result of this policy, the first positive trends have already emerged. Today we can claim that the Hungarian economy is well on its way towards recovery and the foundations of a more sustainable development have been laid. If implemented vigorously, the strict fiscal policy of my Government will put the country back into the ranks of financially stable economies.

At the same time, Hungary cannot and does not want to turn a blind eye to the plight of millions, especially the most vulnerable ones in the developing world, who have been thrown into poverty worldwide, particularly in Africa, as a consequence of the global economic crisis. The present crisis should not undermine our common efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Hungary continues to take its share of responsibility by implementing its donor programs in Afghanistan, Vietnam and the neighboring middle income countries of the Western Balkans.

Global crises require all of us to think and act together in the spirit of shared responsibility. It is our responsibility to ensure that we develop and maintain sufficiently flexible international arrangements capable of responding to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Besides stimulus programs that are desperately needed in developed and developing countries alike, urgent issues such as increased food and energy security should also be addressed.

Climate change is rightly high on the UN's agenda, as it threatens the very foundations of our life. Yet for too long we failed to respond adequately. The sooner we adapt to the changing environmental conditions, the better we are prepared for the vagaries of the future. We need a comprehensive strategy to face all dimensions of this crisis. Actions required are to be considered as an opportunity to achieve prosperity and growth, not an additional burden. Hungary is willing to accept its share of responsibility and is fully committed to achieving important results at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. In this regard, the recent Summit on Climate Change, convened by the UN Secretary-General, was a useful forum in identifying the necessary steps towards a successful outcome.

Mr. President,

Preventing conflicts and managing crises remain high on our agenda. The UN in cooperation with regional organizations continues to play a key role in this respect.

International efforts in Kosovo represent a good example of effective cooperation among various stakeholders, such as the EU and NATO. Full integration of the Western Balkans into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures is a means to promote stability and prosperity of that region, a goal that Hungary supports actively. Interaction among countries of the region to make joint efforts to fulfill the conditions of European integration is an essential tool.

In Georgia the situation on the ground remains fragile. We firmly believe that a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict must be based on full respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We deplore the decision that led to the termination of monitoring activities of the UN and the OSCE in the breakaway parts of Georgia – Abkhazia and South-Ossetia. The resumption of international presence in these regions is necessary.

The stakes in Afghanistan are high. The success of international stabilization and reconstruction efforts will impact in a major way on our security and the defense of the values our societies stand for. Failure is not an option. Hungary will remain committed to supporting politically and through contributing troops and civilian and development assistance the creation of a stable Afghanistan governed by rule of law. We welcome the common initiative of the United Kingdom, Germany and France to hold an international conference at a ministerial level, co-chaired by the UN and the Afghan government.

In the Middle East Hungary warmly welcomes the commitment of the United States to vigorously pursue a two-state solution and a comprehensive peace. Now, it is up to the parties to engage themselves in a meaningful process of negotiation. It is our responsibility to assist them in carrying the process forward.

The nuclear programme of Iran continues to be a matter of most serious concern. We deeply regret that the leadership of Iran has refused to abide by the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. In flagrant violation of its international obligations has even increased the uranium enrichment capacities in the country. Recent revelations about the existence of a second enrichment facility underscore the legitimacy of our previous concerns. We urge Iran to engage, in substantive negotiations on its nuclear programme, without further delay. News about recent missile tests only reinforces our sense of urgency.

The idea of a world without nuclear weapons has been cherished for long. We welcome the affirmation of the commitment to this goal at the recent summit level meeting of the Security Council along with the adoption of a comprehensive set of measures to strengthen the global non-proliferation regime. Hungary hopes that the momentum created by the summit will also have a positive impact on the 2010 NPT Review Conference

Mr. President,

The fallout of the global economic and financial crisis is manifold and can be felt in almost all sectors of societies. It has affected the political landscape in many countries and led to the reemergence of extreme nationalist, racist and xenophobic sentiments, ideologies and political movements. As many other countries, Hungary is not immune from this phenomenon either. We cannot allow those alarming trends to prevail or roll back the advance of democratic values and human rights. The Government of Hungary condemns in most resolute terms any forms of racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia and fights any of their manifestations not just in words, but in deeds.

The promotion and protection of human rights, including the rights of national minorities, the preservation of their cultural and linguistic identities, have been traditionally high on the agenda of the successive Hungarian governments. The presence of flourishing minority communities does not weaken a state, but rather makes it stronger. Trust between the majority and minority within a country can be built only on this basis.

The Republic of Hungary attaches great importance to the work of the UN Minority Forum, and is determined to actively contribute also to the second Minority Forum to be held this November in Geneva. We are witnessing alarming tendencies with a detrimental effect on the political participation, cultural life and educational opportunities of minorities. The international community should pay a special attention to the respect of minority rights.

At this point, I would also like to confirm our commitment, as a newly elected member of the Human Rights Council to play an especially active role in the most important human rights body of the UN. We wish to contribute to the development of the Human Rights Council into an effective defender of human rights, irrespective of political or economic considerations.

Hungary will play its part in multilateral efforts aimed at implementing the principle of responsibility to protect. We strongly believe that there is a clear and urgent need for further institution-building in the field of the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities. That is the reason why Hungary prepared this year a feasibility study on the establishment of the Budapest Centre for the International Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities.

Such a Centre could stimulate worldwide cooperative efforts in the next few years to establish a well functioning system for the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities, through a dynamic and systematic approach of early action mechanisms. The Centre is envisaged to work in close cooperation with the UN, with the Office of the Special Advisor for the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as with other UN Bodies.

Mr. President,

The ongoing changes in international politics and world economy have created a new situation for the United Nations. We welcome and strongly support the efforts aimed at strengthening its ability to adapt to the new realities and make it a more effective forum of multilateral diplomacy. We acknowledge the overall movement in the right direction and several positive developments, but we cannot be satisfied with the pace of the transformation.

The present challenges should lend additional impetus to move forward more vigorously on such issues like the reform of the Security Council, peacekeeping activities, system-wide coherence, budgeting of the organization, management reform and the reform of the environmental governance system of the UN. With a view to actively promote those goals, Hungary presented its candidacies to the UN Security Council for the term 2012-2013 and to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the term 2011-2013.

Mr. President,

The United Nations yet again stands at cross-roads. It needs to adapt itself to the changing international environment. The change requires sacrifices but it offers new opportunities too as it paves the way for new consensus on the future of the UN.

Thank you, Mr. President.