

Delegation from Hungary

Position Paper for UN-Women

The topics before the United Nations (UN) Women are: Eliminating Child, Early, and Forced Marriage by 2030; Supporting the Involvement of Women in Governance and Decision-Making. Hungary strongly believes in the protection and implementation of women's rights as Human Rights. We are fully committed to enable, not only for our citizens, but for all citizens of the world, a fundamentally righteous treatment that every person should be entitled to. Peacefully and with cooperative means, we wish to share our beliefs with Member States in hope of a future without any discrimination or violence against women.

I. Elimination Child, Early, and Forced Marriage by 2030

Child, Early, and Forced Marriage (CEFM) is a human rights violation that disproportionately affects women and girls all over the world. Everywhere, CEFM threatens basic notions of humanity through the abuse of the act of marriage. Many children have to leave their childhood behind, women lose their independence. Once married, many of those girls and women endure physical and psychological abuse, resulting in their loss of self-determination, which enhances their exclusion from society and margins their development. More than 650 million women alive today, suffer from the consequences of child marriage. Given this number, all Member States are confronted with the harmful practices of CEFM that girls and women are forced to face. These damaging actions pose challenges to any state as development is hindered by lack of gender equality, especially in less-developed countries, where 40 per cent of girls are married before age 18. Considering the current increase in migrants arriving in Europe from the African continent, where CEFM is especially widespread, Hungary is highly interested in combatting Child, Early, and Forced Marriage.

Considering the imminent challenge brought upon Hungary and also all across Europe, the Hungarian government adverts to its history of addressing the issue of CEFM. In the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) we declared our strong belief in gender equality. To strengthen our commitment to fight violence against women as a human rights violation, we showcased our participation in this global endeavor during the World Conference on Human Rights through the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. It is the Hungarian government's pride to also have been part of the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, which was proclaimed by the General Assembly through resolution 48/104 and highlights our belief of fighting gender-based discrimination and violence. Hungary also strongly believes in acting against the 12 key areas, where urgent action is needed, to ensure greater quality mentioned in the Beijing Platform for Action. The declaration also highlights the urgent need to end gender based violence, which is a priority for Hungary. Hungary also signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence to strengthen regional implementation. In 2012 the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution on Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate all Forms of Violence against Women, that Hungary is deeply committed to. Hungary appreciates the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CWS) and their success in finding consensus through the Agreed Conclusions on the Elimination of all forms of Violence against Women and Girls in 2013. With a Hungarian Vice Chair of the UN Women Executive Board, Katalin Bogyay, Hungary shows its deep commitment to the organization which was established through the UN General Assembly resolution 64/289.

Hungary believes that in order to combat Child, Early, and Forced Marriage, gender equality in all fields has to be established. We have proven our dedication with our commitment to many resolutions and Declarations. As CEFM is the result of a patriarchal-structured society and culture, in which girls and women are given a lower standpoint from birth on, the economic and social situation often forces them into early or child marriage. By strengthening women's position in their families through financial aid and educational measures, such as the

Hungarian family tax allowance and child benefits, Hungary is already implementing a foundation to improve women's status. It is of utmost importance to Hungary to further improve all women's position through education and campaigns with the expertise of NGOs and leading examples of other Member States. Educating underprivileged girls and women about their rights is the key to ending Child, Early, and Forced Marriage. Hungary is determined to discuss solutions and hopes to cooperate with other Member States.

II. Supporting the Involvement of Women in Governance and Decision-Making

To this day, women are often underrepresented in politics. Despite representing roughly half of the population, only a relatively small amount of women manage to be part of the governmental decision-making process. Cultural and patriarchal thinking remains the key factor for hindering women to obtain high-qualified jobs in governments. Considering the high number of qualified women, the low quantity of only 22.8 % of female national parliamentarians that UN-Women counted in June 2016 is contradictory. Hungary is also affected by this discrepancy. Despite the Hungarian government's success of increasing the amount of women in parliament in recent years, Hungary is further encouraging women to take part in public decision-making to ensure that all women are heard.

The current achievements of involving women in governance and decision-making in Hungary are the result of years of commitment to gender equality, captioned in numerous resolutions and declarations. Hungary has been first shaping the development of women in governance through the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1979. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) of 1995, highlights the freedom of women to participate in politics and addresses the needed empowerment to include women in governance. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are of utmost importance to Hungary. To showcase the importance of the SDGs, we compiled a voluntary national review of the Sustainable Development goals of the 2030 Agenda in 2018. The aims specified in the document can only be achieved through gender equality as discrimination against women hinders sustainable development. Hungary appreciates the work of UN-Women, which was proclaimed in the UN General Assembly resolution 64/289 and is deeply committed to its goals. With a Hungarian woman, Katalin Bogyay, as Vice Chair of the UN Women Executive Board, Hungary is very representative in the organization.

Empowering and strengthening women to play a bigger role in the political discourse is deeply connected with family life. Therefore, the Government of Hungary is dedicated to facilitate the balance of family life and career for women. Increasing women's employment and offering support to mothers to simplify their return to the labour market, constitutes the foundation needed to clear the way for women to become involved in the political spectrum. Hungary has already successfully achieved progress: In 2017 the employment rate of women was higher than it has been in more than 20 years. This outstanding improvement is the result of the new Labour Code from 2012 which highlights flexible forms of employment, which helps women balance their family life better. In addition the Workplace Protection Action Plan (2013-2020) encourages employers to hire female workers. Hungary showcases its commitment to increase the amount of women in governance by financial aid. Around 44 Million EUR was issued in June 2017 to improve the employment situation through a programme called Women in the Family and at the Workplace. As a result, there are now 71 Family and Career points all over Hungary, where trainings and coachings on self-employment, personal and entrepreneurial development as well as services in rural development, local traditions and childcare are organized. Hungary values family traditions and is therefore interested in creating more spaces for women to manage their life with children, education and career. We wish to discuss how to raise awareness and spread information about women's opportunities with other Member States. With a foundation of equality and opportunities we hope to enable women to choose a career in governance and decision-making.

