

Delegation of Hungary
Position Paper on the Human Rights Council

The topics before the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC) are: The Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right, Human Rights of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents and the Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Delegation of Hungary is deeply committed to the protection of Human Rights for every Member State and is therefore looking forward to find constructive solutions through international cooperation.

I. The Equitable Access to Safe Drinking Water as a Human Right

The Delegation of Hungary is deeply aware that the right to water is one of the fundamental Human Rights and should be considered by every state with upmost importance. Nevertheless, the current challenges which the international community is facing, due to climate change, threaten the access to safe drinking water. According to the *Food and Agricultural Organization*, water scarcity affects every continent, with a total of 40% of the Earth's population. Hungary is already facing the outcomes of it, as 50% of its territory is threatened by floods and inland water. On top of that, nearly two million inhabitants do not have access to clean drinking water. Moreover, the Delegation of Hungary is also aware of the challenges which the entire European continent is facing due to bad water quality and water scarcity.

The Delegation of Hungary is deeply aware that guaranteeing the Right to Safe Drinking Water is crucial to not only sustain international peace and security around the world, but to also achieve the *2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development* with its *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs), especially in regard to *SDG 1, 4 and 8*. In addition, we are deeply aware that the implementation of the *General Comment No. 15: the Rights to Water (CESCR 2002)* is crucial to guarantee an adequate standard of living for everyone. The Delegation of Hungary therefore also supports General Assembly (GA) resolutions *64/293 (2010)* and *15/9 (2010)* which recognize safe drinking water and sanitation as a fundamental Human Right. Furthermore, Hungary has implemented several national measurements to guarantee this right for every citizen by recognizing the Human Right to Water (HRTW) in the *Fundamental Law of Hungary* which was adopted in 2011. The *European Union (EU) Water Framework Directive* also allows strong cooperation on issues related to water quality and quantity in the *Danube River Basin*, which Hungary is a part of, such as 19 other Member States. Hungary has been a Signatory for the *Danube River Protection Convention* since 1994 and has adopted the *National River Basin Management Plan* in 2010 to address current issues such as water treatment technology, drinking water safety conditions and the implementation of a drinking water safety plan.

Although strong international measurements have already been implemented by the international community, Hungary invites all Member States to develop effective measures for areas with strong water stress. Therefore, the Delegation of Hungary would like to work with other Member States to further on accomplish *SDG 6* by reviewing *the International Water Resource Management Strategy* to ensure that water stressed areas get the adequate resources. Furthermore, Hungary would welcome to use *the National River Basin Management Plan* to develop sustainable strategies in other River Basins to guarantee that the supply of fresh drinking water can be provided to every person in all areas around the globe. Lastly, the Delegation of Hungary welcomes close cooperation with *Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)* and the *Water and Sanitation Program (WSP)*.

II. Human Rights of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Adolescents

As illegal migrant flows have dramatically risen over the past years, Hungary is deeply concerned of the numbers of Migrant Children entering the national boarder every year. In 2015, 46 000 child asylum seekers entered the territory which made Hungary the second biggest country affected by child asylum seekers in Europe. In total, 215 000 children entered the European continent in the hope of a safer life. Nevertheless, the illegal migrant flow caused thousands of deaths, with 25 % of deaths being children under the age of 18 in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. The Delegation of Hungary would like to stress that it is of upmost importance that every Member State can make its sovereign decision on who can enter their territory. Illegal migration is considered a threat multiplier where terrorist groups and organized criminal organizations enter Hungary's territory. Despite this threat, children are one of the

most vulnerable groups of society. Hungary is aware of the importance of protecting their rights and to guarantee every child a safe life in their home state.

Hungary is deeply aware that every child should have access to all fundamental Human Rights and therefore deeply promotes the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) of 1989. However, Hungary is deeply concerned by the ideas promoted within the *Global Compact For Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* as it creates and increases security risks on a national, regional and global level. To ensure that children are protected during their asylum seeking, the Government of Hungary appoints legal guardians to every child seeking asylum. The *1698/2013 (X. 4) Government Resolution on Migration Strategy* together with the *7 years (2014-2020) Strategy of the EU* ensure that every child has a fair asylum procedure. Furthermore, the Hungarian *Inter- Church Aid* has trained 196 childcare experts in 2009 in cooperation with the *European Integration Fund* and the *Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement*. Deeply aware of the threats the Christian communities in the Middle East are facing, Hungary has contributed 14 million US\$ to improve the situation in those vulnerable areas. Furthermore, Hungary is convinced that investing in youth will ensure that people stay in their home countries. Therefore, 4000 scholarships have been given to young students from the least developed countries.

Deeply aware of the fact that millions of migrants enter Europe illegally every year, the Delegation of Hungary would like to remind that the role of the UN is to resolve the conflict and therefore to help African Member States in capacity building, thus children do not have to migrate illegally. Therefore, reconstruction projects should be implemented so that remigration is possible in those areas. Safety and security should be the main priorities in these countries. Therefore, the UN should help children to stay in their homes- and to be able to safely return to their homes- as soon as possible. Nevertheless, the Delegation of Hungary is deeply aware, that more training of child- care experts should be implemented in countries of origin, transit and destination to ensure that the children's human rights are guaranteed when they are the most vulnerable.

III. The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

The Delegation of Hungary notices with deep concern the ongoing conflict between the state of Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt). Resolving the disputes in the Middle East are not only of utmost importance for the people of these territories but it has also an outstanding impact for the European security and therefore also for the Hungarian security. The unresolved conflict in the region gives the opportunity for terrorist groups to rise and to cause more damage to vulnerable groups in the territory. Furthermore, the delicate situation can lead to new waves of migration, which Hungary is determined to avoid, as it causes more instability in every State affected by migration.

The Delegation of Hungary is determined to further peace negotiations between the parties concerned and therefore has been supporting *A/RES/3376 (1976)* which created the *Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP)* and the 2019 *GA resolutions 74/11 and 74/13* bringing forward promising solutions on the question of Palestine. Deeply aware of the Human Rights situation for the citizens, the Delegation of Hungary had been a committed Member of the *Committee on the Exercise of the inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People* from 1976- 2004. To conquer the challenges a permanent agreement brings with it, the *UN International Media Seminar on Middle East Peace* was hosted in the Hungarian Capital, Budapest, in 2011. The Delegation of Hungary recognizes the important role the Diplomatic Quartet, composed of the UN, the EU, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, plays in resolving the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Nevertheless, Hungary does not support the introduction of trade embargos regarding Israeli companies which will bring more tension to the territory rather than solving the issue.

Therefore, the Delegation of Hungary is deeply aware that new inputs must be provided by the international community to restore the Human Rights Situation in the oPt. The Hungarian Government is convinced that the *American Peace Plan* recently proposed by the United States of America could be one solution on solving the issue concerning the oPt. Furthermore, the Delegation of Hungary invites all Member States to find a fair and balanced approach between the two parties, by achieving a two-state solution through direct negotiation. Meanwhile, the Human Rights of the people must be maintained through strong cooperation between the UN and NGOs, such as through UNICEF and UNRWA.