



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

**Statement by  
H.E. Mr. Péter Szijjártó  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary**

**On the occasion of the  
Peacebuilding Fund Replenishment Conference**

**26 January, 2021**

Dear Ambassador,

Your Excellency,

First of all, congratulations on your new appointment, and I wish you much of success with your contribution and your work at the United Nations. Hopefully, the pandemic will allow to perform your duties in a successful way, and hopefully in a good cooperation with our permanent representative there.

Since the United Nations has been founded, of course, many things have happened, and many changes took place in the recent 75 years, but all those changes and all those events and developments have proven the unique role of the United Nations, when it comes to building peace, and especially when it comes to keeping the peace.

Currently, of course, the main challenge ahead of the global community is the coronavirus and the global pandemic situation, but it should not mean that we do forget about the security challenges which we have to face all around the globe.

Unfortunately, these security-related challenges, these war-torn conflicts are more and more serious. The wars and the conflicts serve, unfortunately, as root causes for the massive migratory waves, which do not only constitute security-related risks but nowadays health-related risks as well.

In order to be able to avoid the outbreak of further migratory waves, and in order to be able to avoid the accelerated spread of the virus all around the world, we definitely do have to unite our forces and capacities to resolve those conflicts, which constitute the most serious security challenges.

And this is where, I believe, your Excellency, the United Nations does have a huge role, therefore we do have to strengthen this function, of the organization, and if we really would like to strengthen this function of the UN, we do have to increase the budgetary resources. And, next to that, or additionally to that, the anti-terror activities of the United Nations should become part of the ordinary budget. Because we can raise the question: what else should be part of the ordinary budget nowadays of the United Nations, if not the fight against terror.

Hungary is definitely not among the biggest countries but we made a pledge to host the regional headquarters of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, with covering all the expenses of that, our troops and our staff have been present in 3 peacekeeping missions of the United Nations, including Cyprus, Lebanon, and Western Sahara. And I am happy to announce that from February onwards, our mission or our contribution in Lebanon to the United Nations peacekeeping mission will be increased by 15 additional troops. We continue to spend financial resources on preventing or helping to prevent conflicts in the Midwest of Africa, and so far, we have helped 50 thousand Christians to be able to stay in their homes in the Middle-East, where unfortunately, their communities are being under persecution on some occasions. Our official development assistance amounted to 316 million dollars recently, which means that in the last ten years, we have more than doubled our contribution in this regard.

And we are happy to announce that we host more than 10 thousand students on state government scholarships from different parts of the world, where conflicts cause many troubles and problems, and the proof of success of this program is that this year, we have 49 thousand candidates for these 10 thousand spots here in Hungary. So, Your Excellency, dear Ambassador, I appreciate your efforts so far, and I wish you all the best with your upcoming endeavors in New York, and I hope to see you soon there.