



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
New York

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STATEMENT

BY

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DEPUTY STATE SECRETARY FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

AT THE MINISTERIAL MINI-SUMMIT

ON THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

TO THE HORN OF AFRICA

New York, September 24, 2011



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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Participants,

Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement made earlier today on behalf of the European Union. Nevertheless I would like to highlight certain issues at hand which are of special importance to my Government.

Addressing natural catastrophes is becoming a more complex and unfortunately more frequent issue on our humanitarian agenda. The consequences of disasters, such as reducing humanitarian space, mass influx of refugees, migration and climate change are demonstrating their effects not only on regional but on global scale as well, being a matter of serious concern for all of us. This makes preparedness and rapid response even more essential. The situation in the Horn of Africa calls our attention not only to the need of solidarity to mitigate the impact of the famine, but also to a joint planning in order to avoid similar tragedies in the future.

I would like to express our appreciation for the support and generosity of the Governments and local communities of Kenya and Ethiopia, who even while confronting their own difficulties, have opened the doors for hundreds of thousands of refugees who have fled crisis. This is exemplary for all of us.

The magnitude of the tragedy has already generated a vast response from many donors and actors. Hungary would like to thank the Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon and Ms. Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator for mobilizing the United Nations system to join forces in responding to this critical situation.

While making efforts to respond to the immediate needs of the population affected by the famine we have to be aware of the necessity of mid-term and long-term solutions. As the international community responds, we must also address the underlying causes of fragility and do more to build resilience to future shocks. We urge the incorporation of aspects and considerations of relief, resilience and rehabilitation actions into the development strategy in order to facilitate predictable economic growth and social stabilization in the future.

Sustainable agricultural production, water management and sanitation built upon the needs of local communities and taking into account local specificities are essential. We fully share the FAO's analysis that building resilience in the agricultural sector will be a core survival strategy for the region. We should be ready to restructure our development policy activities in these countries to secure sustainability in the long run. A set of Council Conclusions on water was adopted by the EU during the Hungarian EU Presidency. We remain committed to take this issue forward in the relevant international fora. Based on our experts' comparative advantages, knowledge and experience in the region, we are ready to contribute to the planning and implementation of projects concerned.

Hungary remains convinced that political stability and good governance are pre-conditions to sustainable development and the well-being of the peoples of Africa and beyond.

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to announce that the Government of the Republic of Hungary has decided to contribute 50.000 USD to the coordination activities of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Somalia.

Thank you for your attention