

**Children and Armed Conflict**

**12 July 2011, United Nations Security Council Chamber**

***Statement by Mr. Korösi, Permanent Representative to Hungary***

Mr. Körösi (Hungary): The Republic of Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the European Union. Let me extend my gratitude to Ambassador Wittig for being a driving force as Chair of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. It is indeed a great pleasure for us to co-sponsor a resolution such as resolution 1998 (2011), adopted this morning.

In our view, the Security Council, in adopting today's landmark resolution, will strengthen the United Nations protection framework for children affected by armed conflict. My country pays special attention to preserving the cultural heritage of all nations, and to preserving their identity and building on these things both in peacetime and during conflict resolution. But we are also convinced that no country's culture and heritage can endorse attacks on schools and hospitals. We are convinced that the abduction of children from such targets is a crime against the children, their families and the communities concerned.

Hungary therefore welcomes the recommendation to expand the triggers for listing to parties who attack schools and hospitals. Only through an effective monitoring and reporting mechanism can the perpetrators be held accountable. It is of key importance that perpetrators be held accountable for violations and abuses for which they are responsible. Hungary is of the firm opinion that grave violations against children should be incorporated as criteria meriting sanctions in the mandates of the Security Council's sanctions committees. We strongly believe that the international community should spare no effort in taking effective steps to respond and put an end to attacks, abuses, assaults and any other kind of violence aimed at children.

The Republic of Hungary strongly supports the work of the Security Council. We would like to reaffirm the importance of family, childhood, education and mental and physical health in all people's lives. Hungary would also like to further encourage the Council to maintain its campaign against the recruitment and abuse of child soldiers.