



**STATEMENT BY**

**Ms. EDIT RAUH**

**STATE SECRETARY**

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOUR OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
HUNGARY**

**AT THE 53<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**New York, March, 4, 2009**



Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'd like to congratulate to you, Mr. Chairman, and to all the members of the Committee for the outstanding job you have done.

Gender equality and improving on the status of women and enhancing their positions are important elements of the UN mandate. We know that the equality of the genders promotes social development on the whole. A wonderful example to this is the tool kit to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals, where gender equality is present throughout as a horizontal goal supporting every one of the Goals.

Hungary is thoroughly committed to improve the status of women and to create real equality

between women and men. We do believe that women's rights are fundamental human rights, and we have to use all the available tools to enforce them. It is our joint responsibility to work towards this together.

I am happy to inform you that as a result of the work started last year, Hungary has developed a long term Strategy with the purpose of promoting gender equality. When preparing this Strategy, we relied greatly, among other documents, on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action issued at the Fourth World Conference on Women. We studied closely the key areas identified therein, and we fitted these goals into our Strategy. We paid special attention to the disadvantaged, most vulnerable groups, such as the Roma women and rural women. As corresponds to the CEDAW recommendations, we laid the foundations of our action plan by carrying out national research exercises for both groups.

The priorities of the Strategy naturally are in line with the Goals identified in the Roadmap

The equal sharing of family and private life responsibilities is a fundamental goal when speaking about improving the status of women because we cannot speak about equality if women have to do practically all the unpaid work after having done their paid work. This is a double load that could stand as a huge obstacle that hinders women's progress.

However, it is not at all easy to change the deep-rooted

family responsibilities are based. We have tried to use a number of tools, and we continue to do so. Among the tools we can find those that give us external support and

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I can also inform you that Hungary has taken another step towards demonstrating her commitment to promote the UN Goals. The UNIFEM Hungarian National Committee Association was set up at the beginning of 2000, which was registered on the 17th of

national committee. The Association develops its own mission in line with the strategic goals of the world organization. Its primary target is to help shaping Hungarian public opinion

