Honoured Participants, Dear Young Delegates!

In a constantly changing world, we can agree that one thing cannot be challenged: the rights of children. We are exposed to the insecurities resulting from health crises or armed conflicts and these have direct and fundamental impact on the life of families and children as well.

Our governments must put their best efforts towards ensuring the promotion and protection of the rights of children as well as to provide support to families. The Government of Hungary strongly believes that children's rights have to be duly taken into consideration when any political decision is formulated.

Let me take the opportunity to express our appreciation for the work done by the Council of Europe in terms of protecting and promoting children's rights and elaborating the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child, which is a very timely and important document.

Hungary highlights that it is not enough to declare the rights but it is crucial to make them come true in our everyday life. If we come to children, observing rights becomes even more determinative.

Any right can be ensured if it is guaranteed by law, and any law can only be effective if it is respected. Any measure can be as effective as the extent to which the fulfilment of its scope is controlled.

Regarding violence against children, we must reject and prevent all forms of abuse, including moral, psychological, sexual, economic and political. Therefore, Hungary stands firm in its commitment to realize children's rights not only on the level of principles but also by taking real, explicit actions.

As a neighbouring country, we are deeply concerned with the hostilities in the Ukraine. Our task is to express our solidarity to the Ukrainians and provide help in all available ways. In addition to helping fleeing people who arrived to our country, Hungary provides direct help to the Ukraine across the borders as well.

Since the outbreak of the deep crisis, among 770.000 asylum seekers many single mothers and grandparents with children have entered Hungary fleeing either directly from the Ukraine or indirectly through Romania or Slovakia.

The Government of Hungary takes care that our country should not turn into a war theatre, but staying a safe Heaven for children and all asylum seekers. In this spirit, Hungary, as initiator, organizer and active participant of the humanitarian solutions, has launched its largest combined humanitarian aid operation yet. Accordingly, we provide the necessary help, aid and assistance for people fleeing the Ukraine to our country in cooperation with international organisations such (e.g. WHO and UNICEF).

Unaccompanied minors placed in child protection care are entitled to the same content and quality of care as indigenous children, including aftercare provided at their request after reaching the age of majority.

The number of parents applying for asylum and enrolling their children in Hungarian kindergartens and schools is increasing day by day. They also have the right to choose their kindergarten and school freely, but the district institutions must admit these children without discretion. The aim of the schools is to integrate children as soon as possible with the provision of targeted services. To achieve the smooth integration of children, besides compulsory education, the Government offers individual afternoon classes for the children concerned 5 times a week, and provides additional support per pupil per month to public education and Vocational and Training institutions hosting refugees from the Ukraine.

The Government has also decided to open the possibility for those concerned to apply for graduation in Hungary and to ensure that it is free of charge.

Furthermore, individuals under temporary protection taking care of an infant are entitled to make use of nursery care under the same conditions as Hungarian citizens.

In the framework of humanitarian aid, medical equipment (ventilators, respirators, patient monitors and central monitors, infusion pumps etc.) were donated and transported to the Ukraine. Furthermore the provision of comprehensive paediatric health care services was also offered and is continuously provided to children refugees from the Ukraine in need of hospital treatment.

In order to ensure the enforcement of children's rights to health we reserved dedicated capacities in our national health care system to provide care for all those in need. Nobody, no child is left behind.

In armed conflicts emphasis has to be placed not only on physical but also on mental health to avoid harmful and standing effects of war experiences. In addition to mental health services, Hungary provides education and social integration services that contribute to free the damaged soul of children in hard times.

Finally, I wish you a constructive and fruitful event for today and tangible success in the future!

Thank you for your kind attention!