The Ombudsman for Future Generation (OFG) has a mandate within the Hungarian NHRI to safeguard a) the human right to a healthy environment, and b) the common heritage of mankind including natural resources for future generations. Recently, the OFG played a central role in stopping a Bill that would threaten legal guarantees that ensure sustainable water management and access to water and sanitation for all (SDG 6) in Hungary. The bill proposed to change the water-related permission system to allow drilling wells down to 80 meters without any permission or notification requirements.

After analysing citizen complaints and consulting with multiple stakeholders (including NGOs and the scientific community), the OFG published and tabled a General Opinion with Parliament, detailing why the proposed legislation would violate constitutional provisions and endanger groundwater resources and public health. Following approval of the Bill in Parliament, the legislation was brought by the head of state for review before the Constitutional Court. The OFG provided an expert opinion to the case, and the Court echoed its arguments in the final decision to annul the proposed legislation.

The Hungarian NHRI used the powers allowed by its constitutional mandate and effectively advocated for invalidating the proposed legislation that risked jeopardising achievement of SDG 6 and the realisation of the human right to water and sanitation.