STATEMENT OF HUNGARY

by

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Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

at the General Debate of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, First Committee

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Mr. Chair,

Let me join previous speakers in congratulating you upon your election and assure you of my delegation’s full support. Hungary associates itself with the statement delivered by the EU. Therefore, I will only make a few remarks from our national perspective.

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, let me also commend you and other members of the Bureau, as well as the Secretariat for bringing the modalities of our session closer to pre-pandemic environment that is more conducive for avoiding further erosion of the arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and for making tangible progress in this field.

It is of vital importance to do so because progress in this area can contribute to the improvement of the current unstable and deteriorating international security environment. Suffice to refer in this respect to the repeated violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in various parts of the world, the uncertainty surrounding the fate of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) drawn up to ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear programme, and the lack of progress in the complete, irreversible and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Fortunately, there are some positive signs as well. Since nuclear arms control has the most direct effect on the overall security environment, the most important development in this regard is the extension of the New START Treaty for an additional five years. At their summit, the presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States also reaffirmed that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. It is also a welcome development that the two countries resumed their Strategic Stability Dialogue. We hope that this Dialogue will lay the groundwork for further arms control agreements.

Mr. Chair,

Despite the ongoing pandemic and the restrictions that come with it there have been some achievements in the multilateral fora as well. Hungary, also as the chair of the OSCE Informal Working Group (IWG) on cyber security since 2017 attaches particular importance to cyber security. Therefore, we welcome that this year both the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) and the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) concluded their work with the adoption of consensus final reports. We hope that the new OEWG established for the period 2021-2025 will make further progress in addressing the risks posed by the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to international security and stability.

Another accomplishment is the successful conclusion of the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States to review the implementation of the Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) earlier this year that marks its 20th anniversary.
Mr. Chair,

Looking ahead, our most important task is to ensure the balanced, comprehensive and successful outcome of the Tenth Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). During five decades of its existence, the NPT has proved to be the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI, and an important framework for facilitating the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Therefore, we should spare no efforts to preserve and reinforce its integrity. To be able to do so we need to attach appropriate importance to all three pillars of the Treaty.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic should draw our attention to the danger of misusing biology for hostile purposes and to the importance of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), a fundamental pillar of the international community’s efforts against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We call on States Parties to do their utmost to ensure the success of the Ninth Review Conference of the Convention next year. For its part, Hungary will submit the annual UNGA draft resolution on BWC. We trust that, as it has been the case each year so far, the resolution will be adopted by consensus.

Finally, let me also underline the significance of the upcoming Sixth Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) that, not least due to its inclusiveness, provides an appropriate framework to address the potential challenges posed by Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

Thank you, Mr. Chair