STATEMENT OF HUNGARY

by

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Mr. Chair,

Hungary associates itself with the statement delivered by the EU, therefore, I will only make a few brief remarks from our national perspective.

Mr. Chair,

In the nuclear field, the most important task ahead of us is to ensure the balanced, comprehensive and successful outcome of the Tenth Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), by making tangible progress in all three pillars.

Regarding nuclear disarmament, Hungary shares the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. However, in our view there is no shortcut in this area, only a progressive approach consisting of gradual and concrete practical steps, and engaging nuclear weapon states provides us with an appropriate platform. Such an inclusive, incremental approach encompasses the entry into force of the CTBT, the ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons (FMCT), and advancing nuclear disarmament verification along with risk reduction, transparency and confidence-building measures.

Hungary contributes to these efforts by being a member of the second Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on nuclear disarmament verification, participating in the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV) and the Creating the Environment for Nuclear Disarmament (CEND) initiatives.

Concerning the risk of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, Hungary supports the complete, irreversible and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We also support efforts aimed at ensuring the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear programme. We believe that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) remains the best available way to achieve this goal.

As a country with an expanding peaceful nuclear program, Hungary recognizes that all States parties have an inalienable right for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy that also helps us to meet our ambitious environmental goals. We are convinced that nuclear safety and security are sustainers of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and contribute to maintaining its positive public perception. Therefore, we currently serve as the convener of the Nuclear Security Contact Group (NSCG) and will host the next Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative toCombat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).

Mr. Chair,

The use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere at any time and under any circumstances cannot be tolerated. The re-emergence of chemical weapons is one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Therefore, it has to be dealt with firmly and collectively, which is a prerequisite for strengthening the integrity of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). We fully support the activities of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to that end.
In our statement delivered in the general debate, we already drew attention to the importance of the positive outcome of the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). We trust that the States Parties will take advantage of the heightened attention caused by the pandemic and manage to overcome the existing stalemate. The adoption of this year’s draft resolution on the BWC that contains only technical updates yet again by consensus would send a positive signal to the Review Conference.

Hungary is also a strong supporter of the UN Secretary General’s Mechanism for Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons (UNSGM), the only independent international instrument in this field. As a clear manifestation of our support, the Hungarian National Biosafety Laboratory (NSL) has been part of the roster of laboratories offered for the UNSGM since 2014.

Mr. Chair,

In our view, the peaceful use of outer space for the benefit of all, in line with applicable international treaties is increasingly essential for many aspects of our daily life. At the same time, activities related to outer space have important security implications as well, which need to be addressed. The prevention of an arms race in outer space is the key in this respect. However, in this area as well only an incremental and inclusive approach can work, taking voluntary measures being the first step.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.