Mr. Chairperson,

As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of the Chair of this Committee. I assure you of my delegation’s full support in carrying out your important task.

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to introduce on behalf of Hungary draft resolution entitled “Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction”.

Draft resolution “Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction” in its second preambular paragraph notes with satisfaction that there are one hundred and fifty five States parties to the Convention, including all of the permanent members of the Security Council,

In its third paragraph of the preamble the draft resolution bears in mind the General Assembly’s call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

In its fourth paragraph of the preamble the draft resolution welcomes the reaffirmation made in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention.

In the fifth paragraph of the preamble it recalls the decision reached at the Fifth Review Conference to hold three annual meetings of the States parties of one week’s duration each year commencing in 2003 until the Sixth Review Conference and to hold a two-week meeting of experts to prepare for each meeting of the States parties.

In its sixth, new preambular paragraph it recalls also the decision reached at the Fifth Review Conference that the Sixth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention would be held in Geneva in 2006 and would be preceded by a Preparatory Committee.
The first operative paragraph of the draft resolution notes with satisfaction the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention and reaffirms the call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention.

In its operative paragraph two the draft resolution welcomes the information and data provided to date, and reiterates the General Assembly’s call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

Operative paragraph three recalls the decision reached at the Fifth Review Conference to discuss and promote common understanding and effective action: in 2003 on the two topics of the adoption of necessary national measures to implement the prohibitions set forth in the Convention, including the enactment of penal legislation, and national mechanisms to establish and maintain the security and oversight of pathogenic micro-organisms and toxins; in 2004 on the two topics of enhancing international capabilities for responding to, investigating and mitigating the effects of cases of alleged use of biological or toxin weapons or suspicious outbreaks of disease, and strengthening and broadening national and international institutional efforts and existing mechanisms for the surveillance, detection, diagnosis and combating of infectious diseases affecting humans, animals and plants; and in 2005 on the topic of the content, promulgation and adoption of codes of conduct for scientists; and calls upon the States parties to the Convention to participate in its implementation.

New operative paragraph four of the draft resolution welcomes the significant participation of the States Parties at the meetings of States Parties and meetings of experts to date, and the constructive and useful exchange of information achieved, and welcomes further the discussion and promotion of common understanding and effective action on agreed topics.

Operative paragraph five, which is also new, recalls the decision reached at the Fifth Review Conference that the Sixth Review Conference would consider the work of the meetings of State Parties and meetings of experts and decide on any further action.

The draft resolution in its sixth, new operative paragraph notes that in accordance with the decision of the Fifth Review Conference, the Sixth Review Conference will be held in Geneva in 2006, the dates will formally be agreed by the Preparatory Committee for that Conference, open to all States Parties to the Convention, which will meet in Geneva during the week beginning 24 April 2006.
In its operative paragraph seven the draft resolution requests the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, including all necessary assistance to the annual meetings of the States parties and the meetings of experts and to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services as may be required for the Sixth Review Conference and the preparation for it.

Mr. Chairperson,

Our expectation is that our resolution will generate wide consensus and will be adopted without a vote as it has been the case in previous years.

Thank you.