Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor during this session of the First Committee let me at the outset congratulate you for your appointment to the chair of the Committee and wish you and the Bureau every success.

Mr. Chairman,

Hungary, following the practice of recent years, will once again submit for the consideration of the First Committee a draft resolution on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. We held several rounds of informal consultations on the new text with the Depositary States and States parties to the Convention in Geneva and all interested States in New York.

The text is based on the resolutions that were adopted in recent years and is updated according to the latest developments. The draft is shorter and more succinct compared to last year’s effort, which reflects the fact that we are in the calm and productive intersessional period of the BTWC, when our focus is on the concrete issues as laid out by the Sixth Review Conference.

In Preambular Paragraph 2, the number of States parties to the Convention was updated, following the ratification of the BTWC by three more countries (Zambia, Madagascar, United Arab Emirates).

New Operative Paragraph 3 (OP3) of the draft resolution welcomes the launching of the Intersessional Process and urges States parties to actively participate in it.

We inserted a new OP6, which urges States parties to continue to work closely with the International Support Unit (ISU) and there is also a technical update in the last Operative Paragraph, OP8.

Mr. Chairman,
Our objective remains to have the draft resolution approved by consensus. I would also like to inform you that while we ask for the support of all UN Member States, Hungary wishes to remain the sole sponsor of the draft resolution on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

Thank you for your attention.