STATEMENT OF HUNGARY

by

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at the General Debate of the 67th Session of the

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me join previous speakers in congratulating you for assuming this very important post and assure you of my delegation’s full support. Hungary fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the EU. I would, however, make a few remarks from Hungary’s perspective.

May I start by reiterating our concern at the growing number of countries and non-state actors that either have, or are seeking to have, Weapons of Mass Destruction, as well as their means of delivery. This threatens our vision of creating a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We hope that the consensus reached at the 2010 NPT Review Conference and the smooth conduct of work during the first Preparatory Committee in May will pave the way for the success of the new Review Cycle.

Hungary, currently serving as the Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors, fully supports and recognizes the important role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in improving nuclear safety and security worldwide. We commend the initiative of the Director General of the IAEA to organize a Conference in Vienna in July 2013 entitled “International Conference on Nuclear Security: enhancing Global Efforts” which will be open to all States. As a country with an active peaceful nuclear program and with plans for further expansion, Hungary has a keen interest in ensuring nuclear safety and security, and in mitigating the risks of nuclear terrorism.

The Seoul Nuclear Security Summit held last March was an important milestone of our endeavors to strengthen WMD control in general and nuclear security, in particular. We fully subscribe to the call of the Seoul Conference for enhancing the security of nuclear material, by all states concerned, within their borders. According to our announcement at the Summit, Hungary, in collaboration with the IAEA, is ready to offer practical training courses in the field of physical protection of nuclear facilities and materials.

Taking into account the number of States Signatories, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty represents a nearly universal norm. Nevertheless, after 15 years, the entry into force of the Treaty still remains a key element of our endeavours. Therefore, we call on those States that have not yet ratified the Treaty, to do so without delay and without precondition. In that regard, we consider the selection of the new Article XIV coordinators very important and hope that they will continue in the footsteps of their predecessors and achieve further progress in the universalization of the CTBT.
Mr. Chairman,

The 7th Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention held in Geneva last December successfully reached agreement on its Final Document which contains a new sustained agenda for the inter-sessional process until 2016 and other decisions facilitating the implementation and strengthening of the Convention. Hungary, following the practice of previous years, has prepared a draft resolution on the BTWC reflecting in a balanced way the developments achieved at the 7th Review Conference. We hope that – as it has been the case so far every year – the resolution will again be adopted by consensus.

The Chemical Weapons Convention and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons have played and will continue to play a vital role in the field of security and disarmament. Hungary has always been a dedicated supporter of the chemical weapons disarmament process. Indeed, fifteen years ago Hungary’s ratification facilitated the entry into force of the Convention. We commemorated the achievements of the past at the High Level Meeting in New York last week, noting, however, that despite considerable progress in the destruction of declared stockpiles, there is still much to be accomplished. We hope that as a result of the upcoming 3rd Review Conference substantial progress will be made in the implementation of the Convention.

Hungary takes its disarmament obligations seriously and makes sure that they are translated into concrete action. Accordingly, I am glad to recall that earlier this year the Hungarian National Assembly unanimously ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We note with regret that last November the Fourth Review Conference of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons in Geneva failed to adopt a new additional protocol on cluster munitions. We expect the High Contracting Parties to the CCW to continue discussions on such an instrument with a view to alleviate the humanitarian problems caused by cluster munitions.

Hungary will be the first of the six presidents of the Conference on Disarmament in 2013. It can be safely stated that the CD has been and still is at an impasse with regards to the way forward, consequently, we will follow the debates about the Conference’s future here in the First Committee very closely. These debates will assist us in shaping our approach towards our presidency of the CD, which can, in any case, be characterized as down-to-earth and realistic. We will conduct consultations here in New York, as well as in Geneva, and will make every effort to come up with a proposal at the beginning of next year that accurately reflects what members of the Conference can collectively sign up to. This, we believe, is the task of the incoming president and we remain hopeful that the outcome of our collective undertaking will bring about positive results.