STATMENT OF HUNGARY

by

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Cluster 2, Other Weapons of Mass Destruction

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I have asked for the floor to deliver two short statements. First, in my capacity as president-designate of the Eighth Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction, I will read out a joint statement by the Foreign Ministers of Hungary, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States on the Review Conference of the Convention.

The joint statement reads as follows:

"The Foreign Ministers of Hungary, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States underline the fundamental importance of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention as a key pillar of international security and of the pressing need to enhance its effectiveness. The Foreign Ministers look forward to the Eighth Review Conference of the Convention in November this year agreeing on substantive measures that will significantly strengthen the Convention and contribute in a measurable way to reducing the threat of biological agents being used as weapons. We are committed to work hard and constructively to this end, and we call upon all States Parties to approach the Conference in a similar spirit and come ready to take the necessary decisions to ensure that the Convention serves its purpose in an effective and sustainable manner."

Second, in my national capacity I would like to introduce briefly the draft resolution on the BWC. Hungary, following the practice of previous years, after extensive open ended informal consultations has submitted a draft resolution on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction.

In addition to the technical changes such as welcoming the increase in the number of states parties to the Convention, this year’s draft recognizes that States parties established an innovative preparatory process for the Review Conference to consider both substantial and procedural issues. The draft also reintroduces updated language from Resolution 66/65 adopted prior to the Seventh Review Conference and urges States parties to work together to achieve a consensus outcome of the Eighth Review Conference to be held in Geneva in November. Hungary wishes to remain the sole sponsor of the draft resolution. Our goal – as in every year – is to have the resolution approved by consensus.