STATEMENT OF HUNGARY

by

Ambassador Dr György Molnár

Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Nuclear weapons

72th Session of the

UN General Assembly, First Committee

United Nations

New York, 13 October 2017
Mr. Chairman,

Our meeting is taking place during a very tense period when the international non-proliferation and disarmament regime is being challenged primarily by the nuclear and ballistic missile tests carried out by the DPRK. Hungary condemns in the strongest terms these flagrant violations of relevant UNSC resolutions, which pose a serious threat not only to regional, but also to global security. We support the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and in this regard urge the DPRK to return to compliance with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards as a non-nuclear weapon state.

Mr. Chairman,

Concerning nuclear disarmament Hungary shares the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. In our view however, there is no fast track in this area, nuclear disarmament can only be achieved through a gradual and inclusive process, by taking concrete and practical steps, which engage nuclear weapon states and take into consideration the international security environment. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons does not meet these requirements but, by creating an unnecessary and divisive duplication, weakens the existing multilateral nuclear disarmament framework. Therefore, Hungary did not participate in the negotiations on the Treaty and will not accede to it.

At the same time, bearing in mind that in the present complex security environment the international community should do its utmost to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime we stand ready to work with all states on elements of the incremental approach that remains the only credible way to produce tangible results. In this respect, one of our most important tasks is to ensure the success of the current review cycle and 2020 Review Conference of the NPT, which remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and through its Article VI the only realistic framework for multilateral nuclear disarmament. Therefore, the NPT and the comprehensive Action Plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference has to be built on, rather than neglected. We are pleased that the first Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) took place in a constructive atmosphere giving a positive impetus to the current review process.

The nuclear tests carried out by the DPRK are also strong reminders that the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) providing for a total ban of nuclear testing is more relevant and its entry into force is more needed than ever. Therefore, as it has been confirmed by UNSCR 2310, there can be no alternative or substitute to the CTBT. With its reliable global monitoring system, the CTBT is a unique asset that needs to be properly financed and further developed.

Another concrete step towards a world free of nuclear weapons would be starting negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut off Treaty (FMCT) banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Concluding a non-discriminatory and, effectively verifiable FMCT would also constitute a significant contribution to the implementation of the NPT. We are pleased that the first session of the high-level expert
preparatory group set up last year by UNGA was held in a constructive atmosphere under its able Canadian chairmanship.

Yet another key building block towards nuclear disarmament is the existence of effective and reliable verification and monitoring mechanisms and instruments. We share the view that nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states should work together to create these verification tools by the time the necessary conditions are in place for the conclusion of new multilateral nuclear disarmament agreements. Therefore, Hungary fully supported UNGA resolution 71/67 and prepared to contribute to the work of the group of governmental experts to be established by the Secretary-General.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the fact that our meeting is taking place in a challenging international security context let me finish on a positive note. Up until now, we are pleased with the fulfilment of obligations by all sides under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The progress we have seen so far is reassuring; however, continued full implementation of the agreement has to be subject of continuous and thorough verification by the IAEA. In our view the JCPOA, also endorsed by UN Security Council, needs to be preserved because it is in full conformity with the principles of the NPT and creates a positive example for resolving controversial questions within the broader framework of the Treaty and the international non-proliferation machinery.