STATEMENT OF HUNGARY

by

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at the General Debate of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, First Committee

United Nations
New York, 14 October 2019
Mr. Chairman,

Let me join previous speakers in congratulating you upon your election, and assure you of my delegation's full support. Hungary associates itself with the statement delivered by the EU. Therefore, I will only make a few remarks from our national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

The complex and unpredictable security situation, characterized by the demise of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, the uncertainty surrounding the extension of the New START Treaty and the repeated violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in various parts of the world testify that the current security context is not conducive for strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. However, under these circumstances, redoubling our efforts is even more essential, because further progress in this field can contribute to the improvement of the overall security environment.

The most important task ahead of us is to ensure the successful outcome of the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), to be held next year, marking the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty. Since during five decades of its existence, the NPT has proved to be not only the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime but also the only realistic framework for multilateral nuclear disarmament, we have to do our utmost to preserve and reinforce its integrity.

Since positions regarding nuclear disarmament are far apart, we have to focus on those areas where common ground exists. There is no fast track in this regard, only an inclusive and incremental process that consists of concrete and practical steps, and engages nuclear weapon states can produce tangible results.

An indispensable, though still missing building block of this incremental approach is the entry into force of the CTBT, as there can be no meaningful nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation without a comprehensive and total ban of nuclear testing. Another concrete step towards a world free of nuclear weapons would be a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

The development of effective verification mechanisms is yet another essential element of the incremental approach. Therefore, Hungary was honoured to be a member of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) tasked to examine the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament. We are pleased that the GGE was able to reach consensus on its report, which clearly recognizes the need for further work in this area.

Hungary also participates actively in the work of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV), focusing on the technical aspects of and capacity building for verification. We trust that the Creating the Environment for Nuclear Disarmament (CEND) initiative, in which we are also involved, will serve as another building block of our joint efforts aimed at creating a world without nuclear weapons.
Mr. Chairman,

Moving to nuclear non-proliferation, I need to underline that Hungary continues to insist on the complete, irreversible and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We value the united and resolute stance of the international community that has played an essential role in the limited progress on this issue.

We also support the international efforts aimed at ensuring the peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear programme. We believe that though the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is not perfect, it has proven to be a useful instrument for addressing concerns related to Iran’s nuclear programme.

Mr. Chairman,

The continued violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) must be a matter of grave concern. Hungary condemns any use of these weapons and strongly believes that those responsible must be held accountable. We have to ensure the integrity of and full compliance with the CWC and the 1925 Geneva Protocol as well as to support the efforts of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to that end.

Mr. Chairman,

Hungary attaches particular importance to cyber security and therefore considers last year’s resolutions of the General Assembly that established a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) and an Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) in the context of international security as important next steps to addressing the threats posed by the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Complementarity and co-ordination are key for the success of both processes. Regional organizations also have an important role to play in this area, therefore, Hungary as the chair of the OSCE Informal Working Group (IWG) on cyber security since 2017 supports efforts aimed at closer cooperation between OSCE and these UN formats.

Hungary is satisfied by the outcome of the Fifth Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Since effective implementation remains crucial for advancing the purpose of the Treaty, we are content that the focus of the next Conference of States Parties will be countering diversion. We are also pleased with the pace of universalization; however, I cannot but reiterate that as long as key players remain outside of its scope, the impact and efficiency of the Treaty remains limited. We also need to create and reinforce synergies with relevant international organisations and mechanisms, such as the UN SALW.

On the 20th anniversary of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, we expect the Fourth Review Conference, to be held in Oslo, to improve the implementation of obligations under the Convention, with a view to achieving a world free of anti-personnel mines.
Mr. Chairman,

My country strongly believes that the Disarmament Commission can make an important contribution to the disarmament and non-proliferation work of the United Nations. That is why we decided to undertake the task of chairing the session of the Commission in 2019. However, this year the substantive session could not be held due to unresolved procedural problems. Together with the outgoing chair, Australia we are doing our utmost to enable the Commission to resume its work next year.

In conclusion, let me confirm that, Hungary, following the practice of previous years, has prepared 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 (BTWC), a fundamental pillar of the international community’s effort against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Substantive changes in the draft reflect the decisions taken by the last Meeting of States Parties (MSP) concerning financial matters and the need that in light of the ongoing major renovation programme of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, the next MSP to be held in December should agree upon practical arrangements for the Ninth Review Conference. We trust that, as it has been the case each year so far, the resolution will again be adopted by consensus.