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STATEMENT OF HUNGARY

by

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Hungary associates itself with the statement delivered by the EU, and that of The Netherlands on behalf of a group of like-minded states. Therefore, I will only make a few short remarks from our national perspective.

In the nuclear field, the most important task ahead of us is to ensure the successful outcome of the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), on its 50th Anniversary. The NPT is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the only realistic framework for multilateral nuclear disarmament. Consequently, we have to do our utmost to reinforce its integrity.

Addressing the risk of the proliferation of nuclear weapons is of vital importance. Therefore, Hungary supports the resolute stance of the international community that has played an essential role in the limited positive developments on the Korean Peninsula. Our goal should remain its complete, irreversible and verifiable denuclearization. We also support efforts aimed at ensuring the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear programme. We believe that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) remains the best available way to achieve that goal.

Hungary shares the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. This however, can only be reached, if our respective efforts also contribute to the improvement of the current instable and unpredictable security environment. To make progress in this field we have to focus on areas where common ground exists. Only a progressive approach consisting of gradual and concrete practical steps, and engaging nuclear weapon states provides us with such a platform.

An inclusive, incremental approach encompasses the entry into force of the CTBT, a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons (FMCT), and making progress on nuclear disarmament verification along with transparency and confidence building measures.

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 report the GGE adopted by consensus recognizes the need for further work in this area. We also actively participate in 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 the incremental approach.

As a country with an expanding peaceful nuclear program, Hungary recognizes that all States parties have an inalienable right for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We are convinced that nuclear safety and security are sustainers of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and contribute to maintaining its positive public perception. Therefore, we currently serve as the convener of the Nuclear Security Contact Group (NSCG) for a second year, and will host the next Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) in 2021.