Check against delivery!

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

at the Second Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Cluster III issues

United Nations
Geneva, 1 May 2018
Mr. Chairman,

Hungary associates itself with the cluster III statement of the EU and the working paper submitted by the Vienna Group of 10.

As I stated in the general debate, Hungary—a country with an active peaceful nuclear program with plans for further expansion—recognizes that all States parties have an inalienable right for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in conformity with the relevant provisions of the NPT. It means that States parties are entitled to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy only in strict compliance with the non-proliferation and verification provisions of the Treaty. In this respect, we attach utmost importance to the full implementation of IAEA safeguards that play a critical role in maintaining confidence in the peaceful nature of nuclear activities. Consequently, we fully support the invaluable work of the IAEA, including through its Technical Cooperation Programme which also contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear safety and security are not impediments but enablers for peaceful uses of nuclear energy. They are mutually reinforcing, and thus should be regulated in a synergetic manner at all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle. Hungary recognizes that nuclear safety and security remains the responsibility of states, however, it is our firm conviction that international cooperation is essential in this field as well. That is why we put special emphasis on the Third Part of the Action Plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference, which addresses the safe and secure development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the central role the IAEA plays in it.

Concerning nuclear safety the IAEA standards provide us with a complex system of fundamental principles, requirements and guides. Hungary has a keen interest in the achievement of the highest possible standards in all aspects of nuclear safety, which is also essential for maintaining public support for the use of nuclear energy. These standards, which we are fully committed to, can only be maintained by ensuring the highest level of nuclear safety worldwide. We are therefore ready to provide assistance and cooperate with interested partners. We note with satisfaction the interest expressed by a number of states in our experience and know-how in nuclear power plant operation and maintenance.

The IAEA also plays a central coordinating role in ensuring adequate nuclear security. Therefore, we encourage all states to take advantage of IAEA advisory services, including the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS). To enable the IAEA to undertake its complex nuclear security related activities we also need to ensure that it has reliable and sufficient technical, human and financial resources allocated through assessed contributions to the regular budget.

Concerning nuclear security we consider ensuring the full implementation of IAEA’s 2018-2021 Nuclear Security Plan as a priority. Another important task ahead of us is to prepare for the Review Conference of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) to be held in 2021.
Mr. Chairman,

Hungary also takes an active part in initiatives such as the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP), the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and the Nuclear Security Contact Group (NSCG) that play a supplementary but important role in strengthening the nuclear security architecture centered on the IAEA. As part of our contribution to these efforts, in mid-April we hosted a radiological source security and theft response workshop in Budapest under the auspices of the GICNT, which was attended by over 90 participants from 25 countries.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion let me voice our strong expectation that the so called “Vienna issues” of the NPT will be given appropriate weight in the report of the Preparatory Committee.