STATEMENT OF HUNGARY

by

Szilvia BALÁZS

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

Cluster II – Nuclear non-proliferation

United Nations

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Mr. Chairman,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union on Cluster II issues. At the same time, please allow me to add a couple of remarks in my national capacity.

As we stated in the general debate, Hungary is of the view that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, as well as, that of nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Unfortunately, the world still faces major proliferation challenges that represent the gravest threats to international peace and security. Therefore, proliferation risks must be addressed in an effective way to preserve the credibility and integrity of the NPT. In this context, Hungary greatly appreciates the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Agency and its system of comprehensive safeguards are fundamental elements of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and play an indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. The Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements and the Additional Protocol are the verification standards of the IAEA based on Article III. We continue to call for the universalization of these instruments.

Mr. Chairman,

Hungary actively supports the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass
destruction and their means of delivery. We consider this resolution as a key element of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Its role is more crucial than ever in preventing terrorist groups from acquiring weapons of mass destruction including nuclear and radiological weapons. Let me mention in this regard that Hungary submitted its streamlined national report at the end of 2018 and will up-date its matrix this year. Since the next review will take place in 2021, we encourage states do the same.

Let me also emphasize the utmost importance of international export control regimes such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the Australia Group (AG) and the Zangger Committee. These voluntary regimes bring us closer to a safer world because they effectively contribute to addressing proliferation threats by implementing obligations under Article III of the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

Hungary supports the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean-peninsula. We urge North Korea to return immediately to the NPT and the IAEA Safeguards as a non-nuclear weapon state. We are of the view that until the DPRK takes concrete actions, the existing sanctions must be upheld and strictly implemented. At the same time, we welcome the slow, but promising developments on the Korean Peninsula, in which the united and resolute international stance has played an essential role. We hope that the recent diplomatic efforts can bring us closer to a denuclearised Korean-
peninsula even though the second summit that took place in February this year didn’t bring along tangible results.

Hungary believes that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is in full conformity with the principles of the NPT and thus creates a positive example for resolving controversial questions within the broader framework of the Treaty. It is a key non-proliferation instrument, which contributes to the goals of the NPT and non-proliferation. Though the JCPOA might not be perfect, it offers the best possible means for obtaining assurances of the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear program. The Director-General of the IAEA in its latest report of February 2019 confirmed that Iran is in compliance with implementing its nuclear related commitments under the JCPOA. We welcome this fact and encourage Iran to continue on this path.

Hungary fully supports the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East, based on arrangements freely arrived at by all states of the region. We are convinced that this is the only realistic way forward.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate our unconditional support for the NPT and our commitment to its full and balanced implementation.

Thank you.