STATEMENT OF HUNGARY

by

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Mr Chairman,

Let me join previous speakers in congratulating you on assuming this very important post and assure you of my delegation’s full support. Hungary fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the EU. However, I would like to make a few remarks from our national perspective.

May I start by recalling that the Hungarian statement delivered in the general debate last year noted certain positive developments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, an area fundamental for ensuring that our collective ambition of a world more stable and secure is fulfilled. The two concrete examples we referred to were the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty by the General Assembly and the UNSC resolution along with the OPCW Executive Council Decision on dismantling Syria’s chemical weapons.

One year later, I am pleased to register that having reached the required number of ratifications, the ATT, which has already become an important point of reference in regulating trade in conventional arms and curbing illicit trade, will enter into force on 24 December. Hungary is proud to have contributed to this success by signing the treaty on the day it was opened for signature and by depositing its instrument of ratification last April. We are looking forward to actively participating in the work of the first Conference of the States Parties, which will have to take important decisions with a view to ensuring the effective implementation and universalization of the Treaty. In our view, the process of informal consultations has taken a good start and will be instrumental in preparing those decisions.

The joint mission of the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons established to remove and destroy Syria’s declared stockpiles of chemical weapons has also successfully completed its work. This serves as a concrete example of how practical cooperation between international organizations can achieve tangible results. At the same time, it also underlines that the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW continue to play a vital role in the field of security and disarmament.

The Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague last March was an important milestone of our endeavors to strengthen WMD control in general and nuclear security, in particular. We were honoured that the head of the Hungarian delegation was one of the five panelists to make introductory remarks in the leaders-only informal discussion on the future of the NSS process. Although the responsibility for nuclear security rests with states, in our globalized world no state can ensure effective nuclear security on its own. Hence international cooperation in this field has also become indispensable and the NSS process is an excellent example for that. In a mere four years it has resulted in high-level political commitments and greatly facilitated national efforts with regard to mitigating the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism.

Mr Chairman,

The Conference on Disarmament is a body that Hungary continues to hold in high regard as one of the major multilateral fora in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, with the special task of negotiating disarmament treaties. We are convinced that the reasons for the stalemate in the CD are not of procedural but, of political nature, and our collective efforts are needed to revitalize this important piece of the disarmament machinery.

The very first step towards a functioning Conference would be the adoption of a programme of work. This should remain the focus of future presidencies, as well. The reestablished
informal Working Group mandated to produce a programme of work “robust in substance and progressive over time” proved useful again this year in helping presidencies in their efforts by turning the drafting of a programme of work into a collective endeavour. In our view, a truly “robust” programme of work is one that allows for the beginning of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut off Treaty (FMCT).

We are convinced that a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices would constitute a significant contribution to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and, at the same time, also contribute to the implementation of Article VI of the NPT. Hungary is privileged to be a member of the Group of Governmental Experts set up by the General Assembly to make recommendations on the possible aspects that could contribute to future negotiations of a treaty. In our view, under its competent Canadian chairmanship, the GGE had substantive and constructive discussions during the first two sessions on a broad range of issues. We trust that in accordance with its mandate the GGE will be able to produce a report providing the international community with a full picture of the complexity of the issue and a detailed analysis of the available options.

In our view, another essential building block still missing from the legal architecture of nuclear disarmament is the comprehensive ban on nuclear tests. Given the number of States Signatories, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) represents a nearly universal norm. Nevertheless, after almost two decades of its adoption, the entry-into-force of the Treaty remains elusive. This motivated us to undertake the duties of Article XIV coordinator, for the period between 2013 and 2015. Over the past year, Hungary and Indonesia, jointly and individually, have been striving to reach out to states that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty, in order to promote its entry into force and its universalization. In the months ahead, we will further intensify our efforts to bring us closer to that goal.

Mr Chairman,

The success of the fast approaching 2015 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime is of paramount importance. I wish to reiterate the firm commitment of Hungary to the Treaty in general, and to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Action Plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference, in particular. Hungary attaches equal importance to each of the three pillars of the NPT. As far as nuclear disarmament is concerned, we fully share the long-term goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. We believe that a realistic and feasible approach is the key to achieving this goal. Hungary is of the view that the elimination of nuclear weapons cannot be a single act but has to be a gradual, comprehensive process, which fully engages the nuclear weapon states, and at the same time, preserves the integrity of the NPT. The generally recognized devastating humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has to be addressed in this context as well, including at the upcoming Vienna conference which should contribute to strengthening the NPT.

Mr Chairman,

In conclusion, let me remind delegations 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 Their Destruction, a fundamental pillar of the international community’s effort against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We hope that – as it has been the case every year so far – the resolution will again be adopted by consensus.