



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 General Debate of the 71th Session of the
UN General Assembly, First Committee**

United Nations

New York, 7 October 2016

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 associates itself with the statement delivered by the EU. Therefore, I would like to make only a few remarks from our national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

First, let me turn to the cluster of issues related to nuclear weapons. In this respect I cannot but reiterate once again that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and, through its Article VI the fundamental framework for multilateral nuclear disarmament which has to be built on rather than neglected or substituted by any other instrument,. Therefore, we need to recommit ourselves to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Treaty and the comprehensive Action Plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference, thus ensuring the successful outcome of the current review cycle that will start with the First Preparatory Committee to be held next spring in Vienna.

As far as multilateral nuclear disarmament is concerned, in our view this goal can only be achieved through a gradual and inclusive process, by taking concrete and practical steps, which fully engage nuclear weapon states and, at the same time, promote international security and stability. We regret that although the report of the Open-Ended Working Group on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, established by UNGA Resolution 70/33 contains a number of references to concrete and practical measures which could bring us closer to the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, the recommendations of the report completely fail to take them into consideration.

It is our strong view that without the involvement and consent of nuclear weapon states and nuclear possessing states negotiating and concluding any new legal instrument which would stigmatize and ban nuclear weapons cannot have any practical or legal result. There is no fast track in this area, only an incremental approach can produce tangible progress.

One of the essential building blocks, still missing from the legal architecture of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests. With the recent ratification by Angola, Myanmar and Swaziland, to date 166 states ratified the CTBT. However, twenty years after its adoption, it is still not in force. While last year Japan and Kazakhstan took over from Hungary and Indonesia the duties of Article XIV Co-Coordinator tasked to promote the entry into force and universalization of the Treaty, in line with our national commitment we remain actively engaged in these efforts. In this respect we welcome the Ministerial Meeting commemorating the 20th anniversary of the opening of the CTBT for signature and the new Security Council Resolution reaffirming the importance of the CTBT.

Due to the almost unanimous support for it, the CTBT can be considered as a de facto universal norm, but it is no substitute for a legally binding ban. The two nuclear tests conducted by the DPRK earlier this year were momentous reminders of the fact that we all need to continue to work and move ahead the process leading to the entry into force of the Treaty.

Another concrete step towards a world free of nuclear weapons would be starting negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut off Treaty (FMCT) verifiably banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Concluding a non-discriminatory, multilateral, internationally and effectively verifiable FMCT limiting the amount of direct use materials would constitute a significant contribution to the implementation of the NPT, both in the area of non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament under Article VI. Since in our view it is important to maintain the momentum created by the substantive and consensus report adopted last year by the Group of Governmental Experts set up by the General Assembly, Hungary welcomes the proposal put forward by Canada to take the process forward.

Hungary considers nuclear security as an important aspect of non-proliferation efforts and also a critical element in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. 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 greatly facilitated national efforts and has become indispensable. The Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) process was an excellent example for that. The summit held in Washington DC last spring contributed significantly to strengthening WMD control in general and to improving nuclear security, in particular. We are confident that the second ministerial level conference on Nuclear Security of the IAEA, which plays a central role in this area, will be another important milestone in our endeavors.

Mr. Chairman,

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) has been an important priority for Hungary since the very beginning. The fact that my country signed and ratified the Treaty among the first ones is a clear testimony to that. We are pleased that with the decisions taken in August this year, at the second Conference of States Parties, the Treaty has become fully operational. Since the institutional framework has been created, it is now the responsibility of the States Parties to fulfil their Treaty obligations and implement them in the most efficient and transparent manner, especially when it comes to reporting. Universalization of the ATT has been progressing well so far. However, there is a particular need to reach out to major arms exporters and to take them on board, in order to turn the ATT into a real milestone in the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms.

Mr. Chairman,

This year is marked by the review conferences of two important Geneva-based disarmament conventions, namely those of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction (BWC), both offering us a good opportunity to strengthen them and advance their universalization.

The CCW is a unique and important tool to assert and enforce the norms of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. The CCW and its Protocols play an important role in responding to challenges posed by new technologies and adapting international disarmament norms to new situations. In this context, Hungary welcomes substantial consideration of the issues of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) and Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines in the current review cycle, and we support the continuation of these discussions after the Fifth Review Conference this December.

Mr. Chairman,

Hungary has a long-standing commitment to the BWC, a fundamental pillar of the international community's effort against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, therefore it is our great honor that its Eighth Review Conference will take place under our presidency this November in Geneva. The Review Conference offers an excellent opportunity to recommit ourselves to the preservation and further strengthening of the Convention's relevance in a rapidly changing political and scientific environment.

States Parties chose to have an innovative approach to the preparations for the Review Conference enabling us to settle not only procedural questions but also to discuss substantial matters related to the Convention's operation. We are pleased about the outcome because all necessary procedural issues for the efficient planning and preparation of the Review Conference were agreed upon by consensus. Moreover, States Parties considered comprehensively all provisions of the Convention and presented a record number of concrete and interesting proposals for consideration by the Review Conference.

So far the preparatory process has been taking place in a positive and constructive atmosphere. On some issues, there are already early signs of the emergence of possible common ground, while on others more work is required before and during the Review Conference which will be decisive in shaping the mid-term perspective of the Convention.

Last but not least, let me remind delegations that Hungary, following the practice of previous years, has prepared a draft resolution on the BWC. We hope that, as it has been the case every year so far, the resolution will again be adopted by consensus.