Statement by Amb. Tibor TÓth of
the 1st Committee on 21 October (2 pages incl. this)

Under agenda item 80 on behalf of Hungary I would like to introduce the draft resolution on the Convention (on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and of Their Destruction.)

In its preamble the draft resolution notes with satisfaction that there are one hundred and fifty States parties to the Convention, including all of the permanent members of the Security Council.

It refers to the call of the General Assembly upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference, and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April.

Still in the preamble the draft resolution welcomes the reaffirmation made in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article 1 of the Convention.

And finally it recalls the decision reached at the Fifth Review Conference to hold three annual meetings of the States Parties of one week duration each year commencing in 2003 until the Sixth Review Conference, and to hold a two week meeting of experts to prepare each meeting of the States Parties.
Operative paragraph 1 notes with satisfaction the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention, reaffirms the call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention.

Operative paragraph 2 welcomes the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

And operative paragraph 3 recalls the decision reached at the Fifth Review Conference and calls upon the States Parties to the Convention to participate in its implementation.

The expectation is that the draft resolution on the Biological Weapons Convention will be adopted without a vote.