DRAFT RESOLUTION L.32., ENTITLED “CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIC WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION”

GENERAL STATEMENT BY HUNGARY TO THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

New York, 26th October 2011

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Mr. Chairman,

Hungary, following the practice of previous years, wishes to introduce draft resolution L.32., entitled “Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons and on Their Destruction”. The draft resolution was submitted for the Committee’s consideration on 13th October 2011. The text of the draft is based on the resolutions that were adopted in recent years and updated to the latest developments with special focus on the upcoming 7th Review Conference of the State Parties to the Convention to be held in December 2011. Before tabling the draft resolution, Hungary held several rounds of informal discussions on the text in Geneva and in New York. We tried to accommodate the views expressed by the States Parties at these consultations in order to reflect the general sentiment and wish of the States Parties in relation to this convention.

Mr. Chairman,

No sooner had we submitted the draft resolution to the Committee for consideration than the news of Burundi joining the BTWC was announced by the delegation of the United Kingdom, one of the depositories of the Convention. The date of the entry into force is 18 October. Taking into consideration this increase in the number of State parties, Hungary would like to make two minor oral amendments of technical nature to the draft text published in document L.32 to reflect this development. The changes are the following:

In the first line of Preambular Paragraph Two, the number of States parties should read correctly one hundred and sixty-five, and the paragraph should read as follows: “Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and sixty-five States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons and on Their Destruction, including all the permanent members of the Security Council.”;

Similarly, the first line of Operative Paragraph One should also be adjusted accordingly, and the paragraph should read correctly as follows: “Notes with appreciation that two additional States have acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological
(Biological) and Toxic Weapons and on Their Destruction, reaffirms its 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 the earliest possible date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;”.

With these oral amendments, Mr. Chairman, Hungary wishes to remain the sole sponsor of the draft resolution on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction and hopes that it will be approved by the Committee without a vote.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.