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Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the
State Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Cluster I issues – Nuclear disarmament

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Mr Chairman,
Since this is the first time Hungary takes the floor during the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee let me begin by warmly congratulating you on your election and assuring you of our full support. Hungary aligns itself with the statements of the European Union, the Statement of the Vienna Group of 10 delivered by Australia and the Statement on the Importance of Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education delivered by Japan.

Mr. Chairman,
Hungary attaches outstanding importance to preserving the balance between 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 in a realistic and feasible approach towards achieving this goal. Hungary is of the view that the elimination of nuclear weapons is not a single act but has to be a step-by-step, comprehensive process, which fully engages the nuclear weapon states, as well 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 fashion as well.

Mr. Chairman,
While Hungary is not a nuclear weapon state, we nevertheless do our utmost to contribute to the efforts aimed at achieving our common goal, nuclear disarmament in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, through concrete and practical steps which, at the same time, also promote international security and stability. Due to the time constraints, I confine myself to referring only to a few of them.

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 rather of political nature, and our collective efforts are needed to revitalize this important piece of the disarmament machinery. We cannot give up on the CD.

The very first step towards a working Conference would be the adoption of a programme of work, in line with the Action Plan of the 2010 Review Conference. This should remain the focus of successive presidencies. The recently established informal Working Group can help the presidencies in their efforts by making the drafting of a programme of work a truly collective endeavour. In our view, this means a Programme of work 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 be a significant contribution to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and, at the same time, would also contribute to the implementation of Article VI of the NPT. By verifiably banning the production of fissile materials, it would limit the amount of direct-use materials, which may be accessible to non-state actors for building improvised nuclear explosive devices; it could also significantly reduce the likelihood of these materials being used in terrorist acts. Therefore the FMCT would have both non-proliferation and disarmament components not only complementing but also strengthening the NPT.

As one of the countries having been selected to appoint an expert on the group, Hungary participates in the work of the GGE with “ambitious realism”. We expect the GGE to lay the groundwork for an eventual FMCT by providing the international community with a full picture of the complexity of the issue and a detailed analysis of the available options.

Mr. Chairman,
In our view another important 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 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, together with Indonesia, between 2013 and 2015. Our planned outreach activities to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty are described in the Action Plan of the Coordinators made public last December.

To ensure an innovative and focused approach in advancing the CTBT’s ratification, a group comprising of eminent personalities and internationally recognized experts was launched in the margins of last year’s Article XIV Conference. Through their expertise, experience and political standing, this Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) supports and complements efforts to promote the Treaty’s entry into force as well as reinvigorate international endeavors to achieve this goal. We are confident that the endeavors of the GEM will contribute to a reinforced dialogue with important stakeholders in the remaining Annex II countries. Therefore Hungary is ready to host the next meeting of the Group in Budapest later this year.

Mr. Chairman,
As the end of the current review cycle of the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** is fast approaching, in conclusion 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.