Mr Chairman,

Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would only like to add a few brief remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset let me emphasise that Hungary, a country with an expanding peaceful nuclear program, acknowledges the right of all states to benefit from the peaceful use of nuclear energy, provided that adherence to and compliance with NPT non-proliferation and verification requirements are upheld.

Mr Chairman,

In our view, it is essential to create synergies between the interlinked areas of nuclear safety and security. We were therefore particularly honoured that the Hungarian Foreign Minister had been requested to preside over the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts organised by the IAEA in Vienna last July. The Ministerial Declaration adopted by consensus by all Member States of the IAEA has been an important milestone in enhancing nuclear security worldwide. The discussions among the nuclear security experts have also underlined that the IAEA should play a central role in strengthening the global nuclear security framework.

Although the responsibility of establishing, implementing, maintaining and sustaining a nuclear security regime rests entirely with states, as it has also been recognised by the Nuclear Security Summit held earlier this year in The Hague, in our globalized world, no state can ensure effective nuclear security on its own. Hence international cooperation in this field has also become indispensable. While recognizing the value of inclusive global partnerships, we are convinced that different international initiatives can make a very important contribution to the enhancement of nuclear security.

Mr Chairman,

In November 2013, Hungary became a Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) free country after having transferred the remaining spent highly enriched uranium fuel from the Budapest Research Reactor to the Russian Federation financed by the US Government through the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI). Hungary became the ninth nation, to have completely removed all HEU fuel from its territory. We encourage all countries concerned to work towards the elimination of all HEU from their territories.
The Hungarian Atomic Energy has concluded a cooperation agreement with the IAEA Office of Nuclear Security in the field of nuclear security for organizing regional training activities, fostering research and development, as well as the implementation of advanced techniques and procedures. As another contribution to strengthening nuclear security, Hungary will host an event of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) on national forensics libraries in Budapest, in the fall of 2014.

Mr Chairman,

The second International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission of the IAEA took place in Hungary in May last year, with a very thorough examination of the country’s entire nuclear security regime. The IPPAS team concluded that the physical protection systems at the visited sites had been significantly enhanced. We were delighted that the team also identified 13 good practices in our national nuclear security regime. In order to implement the suggestions and recommendations of the IPPAS mission, a national action plan was developed by the end of 2013.

Hungary applies the IAEA safety standards, which provide a complex system of fundamental principles, requirements and guides for guaranteeing nuclear safety. We have a keen interest in ensuring that all actors maintain or work towards the highest possible standards in all aspects of nuclear energy. These high standards, which we are fully committed to, can only be maintained by ensuring the highest level of nuclear safety worldwide.

We believe that highly professional staffs of maintenance and operation experts at all levels are a key to the safe and reliable operation of nuclear power plants. We are therefore ready to provide assistance and cooperate with interested partners. As an effort to contribute to the generally recognised goal of strengthening nuclear security worldwide we continue to organize practical training courses at the Paks Maintenance and Training Centre.