Statement of Hungary

First Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
Cluster II – Nuclear non-proliferation

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union on Cluster II issues therefore I would like to make only a few remarks from our national perspective.

As we stated in the general debate Hungary is of the view that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) remains the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, as well as, that of nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Unfortunately the world continues to face major proliferation challenges that represent one of the gravest threats to international peace and security. Therefore proliferation risks must be addressed in an effective way to preserve the credibility and integrity of the NPT. We greatly appreciate the International Atomic Energy Agency's work in this field. The Agency and its system of comprehensive safeguards are fundamental elements of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We call on States to help enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency and thus contribute to strengthening the global non-proliferation regime.

UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery is also a key element of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and its role is more crucial than ever in preventing terrorist groups from acquiring weapons of mass destruction including nuclear and radiological weapons.

Let me emphasize that the international export control regimes such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the Australia Group and the Zangger Committee are legitimate means of implementing obligations under Article III of the Treaty because they can effectively contribute to addressing proliferation threats.

Mr. Chairman,

The two nuclear and the multiple ballistic missile tests carried out in the last two years by North Korea are signaling a particularly alarming trend. Hungary condemns in the strongest terms that the DPRK is violating a number of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, posing a serious threat to the security and stability of the region and the whole world. Hungary supports the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and in this regard urges North-Korea to return to the NPT and the IAEA Safeguards. The DPRK's example underlines that withdrawal from the NPT carries inherent proliferation risks and therefore we have to pay more attention to Article X of the Treaty and work out strict principles for exercising the right of withdrawal.
16 January 2017 marked the first anniversary of the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). We believe that the JCPOA is in full conformity with the principles of the NPT and thus creates a positive example for resolving controversial questions within the broader framework of the Treaty. It is an important non-proliferation instrument, which successfully contributes to the overall goals of the NPT and non-proliferation. It is in the interest of all Parties to the Action Plan that its provisions are fully implemented. So far, we are pleased with the fulfilment of obligations by all sides, which remains crucial throughout the implementation of the JCPOA.

With regards to the specific issue of the Middle East we strongly support the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. We support efforts to create the conditions for launching this process at a conference to be attended by all states of the region on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by them. We encourage all relevant stakeholders in particular the States of the region that have primary responsibility for advancing this goal to have an open mind and engage actively in consultations on this issue of great importance.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate our unconditional support for the NPT and our commitment to its full and balanced implementation.