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STATEMENT OF HUNGARY

by

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**Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**

**at the Third Preparatory Committee
for the 2020 Review Conference of the States Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

General Debate

**United Nations
New York, 30 April 2019**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me join previous speakers in congratulating you upon your election and assure you of my delegation's full support. Hungary associates itself with the statement of the EU and the Vienna Group of 10, as well as the one delivered by Belgium on behalf of a group of broadly like-minded states. Therefore, I will make only a few remarks from our national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

During the nearly half century of its existence, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has been the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and, through its Article VI, the only realistic framework for the pursuit of multilateral nuclear disarmament. Since the Review Conference to be held next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the NPT, it offers us an excellent opportunity to preserve and strengthen the integrity of the Treaty. In this respect, we are encouraged by the meeting of the Security Council held in support of the NPT on 2 April this year. We are of the view that the comprehensive Action Plan adopted by the 2010 RevCon for follow-on actions across the three pillars that are equally important and mutually reinforcing, continues to serve as a good basis for recommitting ourselves to the objectives of the Treaty.

As far as multilateral nuclear disarmament is concerned, we are convinced that Article VI of the NPT continues to serve as the fundamental framework to reach the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. However, it is our strong conviction that this goal can only be achieved if our respective efforts take into consideration the current, rather complex security situation and contribute to creating the environment for a safer and more secure world.

In our view, in pursuing nuclear disarmament, we have to focus on areas where common ground exists. There is no fast track in this area, only an inclusive and incremental process that consists of concrete and practical steps, and engages nuclear weapon states can produce tangible results. These steps include the entry into force of the CTBT, a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons (FMCT) and making progress on nuclear disarmament verification.

In this respect, we welcome that the report of the High Level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group reiterated the need to immediately commence FMCT negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, on the basis of CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein. Hungary was honored to participate in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) tasked to examine the role of verification in advancing nuclear disarmament. We are pleased that the GGE was able to reach consensus on its report, which recognizes the need for further work in this area. We are also actively engaged in the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV) focusing on the technical aspects of and capacity building for verification.

Mr. Chairman,

Hungary is of the view that the credibility of the NPT can only be preserved if existing and emerging nuclear proliferation risks are addressed in an effective way. The role of the IAEA's comprehensive safeguards system is crucial in this field.

Concerning regional issues, we urge the DPRK to return to compliance with its obligations under the NPT and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards as a non-nuclear weapon state. We hope that recent diplomatic efforts can bring us closer to that goal. We also support the aim of the international community to ensure that the nuclear program of the Islamic Republic of Iran remains on a peaceful path. We believe that, though the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) might not be perfect, it offers the best possible means for obtaining assurances of the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program. In the Middle East, we are in favor of the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, including their delivery systems, based on arrangements freely arrived at by all states of the region.

Mr. Chairman,

As a country with an active peaceful nuclear program, Hungary acknowledges that all States parties have an inalienable right for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in conformity with the relevant provisions of the NPT. At the same time, we also attach particular importance to nuclear safety and security that are sustainers of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and can contribute to its positive public perception. Therefore, we also take an active part in a number of related initiatives and fora that play a supplementary but important role. Last September Hungary assumed the Convenorship of the Nuclear Security Contact Group (NSCG), which brings together states committed to advancing nuclear security.