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STATEMENT OF HUNGARY

by

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for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**

**at the General Debate of the 77th Session of the
UN General Assembly, First Committee**

United Nations

New York, 6 October 2022

Mr. Chair,

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 delivered by the EU. Therefore, I will only make a few remarks from my national perspective.

Mr. Chair,

The current security environment is extremely challenging and complex due to the ongoing war in Ukraine that also increases the risk of nuclear escalation and miscalculation. Against this backdrop, the objective of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation is more important than ever, thus, it is a moral obligation to do our utmost to attain it.

Mr. Chair,

Even under these difficult circumstances it was our strong hope that the 10th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) would be able to adopt a comprehensive final outcome document. Although we did have very complex and substantive discussions, we unfortunately were not able to reach consensus in the end. Nonetheless, we remain convinced that the NPT remains the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with its Article VI and an important element in the development of nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes, in accordance with its Article IV.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to do our best to make the next NPT review cycle, which starts already next year, a success and to preserve and strengthen the relevance and integrity of the NPT. To do so, we need to concentrate on issues that unite us and not on the divisive ones in all the three equally important and mutually reinforcing pillars of the Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

As far as nuclear disarmament is concerned, Hungary shares the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. In the face of the increasing risk of the use of nuclear weapons, we must redouble our efforts to reinforce the norms against nuclear weapons and reject policies that threaten to use them. However, there is no "fast track" in nuclear disarmament, only an incremental approach, consisting of gradual and concrete building blocks can produce tangible results. We need to focus on those "Stepping Stones" where common ground exists and a consensus that includes Nuclear Weapon States as well can be reached. Such indispensable

steps are the entry into force of the CTBT, a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and the development of effective verification mechanisms. Strategic nuclear risk reduction, transparency and confidence building are also potential areas where tangible progress can be made.

With regards to nuclear non-proliferation, Hungary is of the view that its credibility can only be preserved if emerging nuclear proliferation risks are addressed in a timely and effective fashion. In our view, multilateral export control regimes also play an essential role in this respect. Hungary is concerned about the uncertainty surrounding the fate of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) drawn up to ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear programme and the lack of progress in the complete, irreversible and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula..

Mr. Chair,

Fortunately, there are some positive developments as well. One of the important accomplishments achieved earlier this year is the successful conclusion of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States to review the implementation of the UN Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW PoA). We are pleased that against all odds States managed to agree on an outcome document by consensus. The role played by the two vice chairs, Hungary and Guatemala, in establishing the final consensus in the absence of the chair is fully in line with the fact that my country has always advocated the view that the implementation of the PoA is vital to stop the illicit trade and diversion of these SALW that take more human lives than any other weapon.

We are also content that after three years of silence, the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) was able to resume its work in 2022 under the chairmanship of South Africa. For us this is a significant and positive development because my country strongly believes that the UNDC can make a meaningful contribution to the disarmament and non-proliferation work of the United Nations. We are pleased that this year Hungary could effectively participate in this work by chairing the working group on outer space issues. We trust that next year, when we will finish the work of this cycle, we can find the necessary common ground in order to adopt recommendations by consensus.

Hungary, also as the chair of the OSCE Informal Working Group (IWG) on cyber security since 2017 attaches particular importance to cyber security. Therefore, we support the idea of establishing a Program of Action to Advance Responsible State Behavior in Cyberspace.

Mr. Chair,

The COVID-19 pandemic that is still with us should draw our attention to the danger of misusing biology for hostile purposes and to the importance of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), a fundamental pillar of the international community's efforts against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which was opened for signature 50 years ago. We call on States Parties to contribute to the success of the Ninth Review Conference of the Convention to be held at the end of this anniversary year. For its part, Hungary will submit the annual UNGA draft resolution on BWC. We trust that, as it has been the case each year so far, the resolution will be adopted by consensus.

Thank you, Mr. Chair