

Check against Delivery!

Statement

**to the CONFERENCE ON FACILITATING THE
ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY**

Madam President, Mr. President,

May I congratulate you on assuming the post of the President of the 5th Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. I wish you success in fulfilling your duties. Let me assure you of my delegation's support and assistance.

Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier today by Portugal on behalf of the European Union.

CTBT was the result of several years of intensive negotiations in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. The completion of those talks and the opening of the treaty for signature eleven years ago demonstrated that the international community was able to seize a window of opportunity which had opened after the end of the Cold War. CTBT established the universal norm of banning nuclear test explosions. It constitutes an important measure of both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Over the 11 years since the opening for signature of the Treaty, fundamental changes in the international security

environment have taken place. New grave challenges and threats have emerged, including the attempt by several states to acquire nuclear weapons or their components, in clear circumvention of international obligations. The risk that weapons of mass destruction fall into the hands of terrorist groups and other non-state actors also added to the urgency to strengthen international mechanisms aimed at halting and reversing these alarming trends. The current situation reinforces our conviction that CTBT is one of the fundamental instruments to provide a basic framework for the international community to promote long-term disarmament and non-proliferation goals.

Hungary takes its share of responsibility in helping the Treaty to bring all its security benefits and actively promotes its entry into force. We join the call on all States, which have not yet ratified the treaty to do so without delay and preconditions. My country is listed among the Annex 2 states whose ratification is required for the Treaty to take effect. With a view to facilitate this process and in line with our security policy aspirations, Hungary decided to sign the CTBT among the first and ratify it in July 1999. We urge the remaining 10 Annex 2 States to follow suit. Each and every signature or ratification strengthens the political value of the Treaty, brings us closer to our common objective, to a safer world. Even without having entered into force, the CTBT helped to create a strong international norm against nuclear testing. The ten remaining States whose ratification is imperative for entry into force need to join those who have already ratified the Treaty, recognizing its genuine non-proliferation and disarmament value, its verifiability and its contribution to international and regional peace and security.

We also wish to stress the importance of exploring and developing the potential civil and scientific applications of the monitoring regime. We are deeply convinced that the verification technologies, beside their basic functions, can also demonstrate benefits in a number of areas, such as environment, earth science and technology and disaster alert system. Civil and scientific applications including the provision of IMS data to tsunami organizations, if broadly shared by members of the international community, will make it more attractive for many States to sign and ratify the Treaty, and will thus promote its universality. We welcome the progress in the discussions of the Preparatory Commission in this regard. National initiatives, including the successful Experts' Meeting in Budapest, Hungary in September 2006, have made important contribution to the on-going efforts. Hungary remains committed to actively contribute to the development of the civil and scientific benefits of the CTBT verification technologies.

Madam President, Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Hungary's commitment to the principles and objectives of the CTBT as a major instrument of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We reaffirm our support for the Treaty, which would rid the world of nuclear weapons test explosions of any kind and would contribute to systematic and progressive reduction of nuclear weapons and the prevention of nuclear proliferation. We stand ready to actively promote its entry into force and lend our support to upcoming international efforts to this end.

Thank you, Madam President, Thank you, Mr. President.