**Statement by Hungary at the 2021 Article XIVConference**

Mister President, Secretary General, Executive Secretary,

Madam High Representative, Distinguished Ministers and Colleagues,

Let me start by **congratulating Executive Secretary Dr Robert Floyd on his election** and assure him of Hungary’s full support. Dr Floyd, we look forward to closely working with you.

May I also congratulate **Italy and the Republic of South Africa that are formally assuming the position of Article XIV co-ordinators** today and wish them success in their efforts to promote the entry into force of the Treaty.

This year marks the **25th anniversary** of the CTBT’s opening for signature. This occasion provides us with an opportunity to **take stock of** **what has been achieved** since 1996:

With 170 States Parties, **the Treaty has become roughly universal**. In this context, I would like to welcome the latest ratifications by Cuba and the Comoros.

Since 1998, **the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has been a nearly universally accepted norm:** all but one member of the international community [the DPRK] have refrained from conducting nuclear tests.

Hungary continues to insist on the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and we urge the DPRK to comply with all relevant UNSC resolutions.

The **International Monitoring System**, the CTBT’s almost complete verification regime is a unique asset. Throughout the years, the IMS has demonstrated its utility and reliability, not only in detecting nuclear explosions, but also in predicting natural disasters. It can provide tangible benefits to our societies. Therefore, it needs not only to be maintained, but further developed and completed, and in order for that, adequate funding has to be ensured.

Let me add here that for us, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy are two sides of the same coin. Hungary has high ambitions in both. According to Hungary’s new Energy Strategy and National Energy and Climate Plan, nuclear energy remains a key component of a cost-effective, climate-friendly, safe and stable energy mix. Operational security and safety remain the most important priority while operating and further developing the Paks nuclear power plant by adding two new nuclear power plant units.

Secretary General, Excellencies,

Today’s meeting is also an opportunity to reiterate that the global moratorium on nuclear testing does not substitute for a legally binding obligation and to highlight the need for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Therefore, we call upon the remaining Annex II States that have yet to sign and ratify the Treaty to waste no more time by waiting for others, but to lead by example. **After 25 years, it is high time for the Treaty to achieve the one thing it hasn’t achieved yet: to enter into force**. It is only by doing so that the CTBT would meet its ultimate goal, to close the era of nuclear testing, once and for all.