Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

8-9 December 2014

STATEMENT OF HUNGARY

I would like to start by expressing the Hungarian delegation’s gratitude to the Government of Austria for organizing and hosting the third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear weapons. We also appreciate the extensive preparatory consultations conducted by our Austrian hosts aimed at putting together a comprehensive agenda and ensuring broad participation including that of two Nuclear Weapon States the United States and the United Kingdom.

Hungary recognizes the devastating humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and therefore shares the ultimate goal of living in a world free of them. Though Hungary is not a nuclear weapon state, we do our utmost to contribute to the efforts aimed at achieving nuclear disarmament and at the same time, promoting international security and stability. Hungary has consistently advocated the view that this goal can only be achieved through practical steps.

One of these concrete steps would be a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests. Given the number of States Signatories, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) represents a nearly universal norm. Nevertheless, after almost two decades of its adoption, the entry-into-force of the Treaty remains elusive. With an almost complete verification regime and a unique global monitoring system the CTBT is verifiable and reliable. Therefore we have to do our utmost to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty, one of the most important building blocks still missing from the legal architecture of nuclear disarmament.

Another essential step would be to begin negotiations on a Fissile Material Cur-off Treaty (FMCT). Such a treaty would constitute a significant contribution to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. As one of the countries having been selected to appoint an expert on the a Group of Government Experts (GGE) established by the United Nations’ General Assembly to lay the groundwork for an eventual FMCT we are pleased that the GGE has been able to make considerable progress during its first two sessions.

We are equally convinced that the elimination of nuclear weapons cannot be a single act but has to be a step-by-step, comprehensive process, which fully engages the nuclear weapon states as well. At the same time, the integrity of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), the cornerstone for progress towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation must be preserved. Consequently, the Vienna conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should contribute to the successful outcome of the NPT Review Conference to be held next Year. We trust that the Chair’s summary of our discussions will duly reflect the aforementioned considerations.