Statement by H.E. Ambassador Györgyi Martin Zanathy,

Delegation of the Republic of Hungary

Main Committee II

Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (New York, May 13, 2010)

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor in this Main Committee of the Review Conference, allow me to congratulate you, as well as members of the bureau, on your assumption of this important position. Hungary will provide you with every support in your efforts to guide us to a successful conclusion of our work.

Hungary aligns itself with the intervention made on behalf of the European Union earlier this week.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished colleagues,

There is a widespread expectation in the international community that the demand for nuclear energy will significantly increase in the coming years and decades. This "nuclear renaissance" will undoubtedly bring along new proliferation challenges as trade and transfers of nuclear materials and technologies gather momentum. Export controls have a distinct and very specific role to play in the complex endeavor of guaranteeing that these transfers are for peaceful purposes only.

A strong and robust export control regime supports nuclear non-proliferation and, by doing so, facilitates peaceful nuclear cooperation. Hungary believes that the Review Conference should acknowledge this fact by recognizing the importance of appropriate effective export controls, in compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1887 (2009) and in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article III of the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

The Understandings of the Zangger Committee and the Guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group are important tools that can help all NPT States parties effectively implement national export, transit, transshipment and re-export controls. We urge all countries to draw on the experience of these export control arrangements.

Strengthened international solidarity and enhanced transparency in the field of transfers of nuclear material is our common asset. Decision 2 on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament" of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT stipulated that "transparency in nuclear-related export controls should be promoted within the framework of dialogue and cooperation among all interested States party to the Treaty". This decision was reconfirmed in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Treaty, in which States parties also requested that "any supplier arrangement should be transparent and should continue to take appropriate measures to ensure that the export guidelines formulated by them do not hamper the development of nuclear energy for peaceful uses by States parties, in conformity with articles I, II, III, and IV of the Treaty".

The Nuclear Suppliers Group, which Hungary currently chairs, welcomed and has actively been implementing the above requirements. The Group has consistently promoted openness and greater understanding of its aims, as well as adherence to its Guidelines, and is prepared to support efforts by States to adhere to and implement the Guidelines. The commitment of Participating Governments to improve transparency in nuclear related export controls and to cooperate more closely with non–NSG participants is reflected in the "Public Statement" adopted by consensus at the Budapest Plenary in June 2009.

The NSG has recently updated document INFCIRC/539 entitled "The Nuclear Suppliers Group: its Origins, Role and Activities". The purpose of this document is to contribute to a broader understanding of the NSG and its activities as part of an overall effort to promote dialogue and cooperation between NSG participants and non-NSG participants.

The Group, through its Chairmanship Troika, is implementing an ambitious and active outreach program towards non-NSG participants and international organizations in order to inform them about NSG practices and to promote adherence to the Guidelines. The side event organized last October by the Mission of Hungary to the UN in New York on the margins of the First Committee's fall session was part of this outreach effort. Seminars under the NSG banner on nuclear export control have been taking place regularly, as well. The last such event, organized by the ministries of foreign affairs of Hungary and Serbia, took place in Belgrade in March this year.

Since the 2005 NPT Review Conference, the NSG has actively worked to update and strengthen its control lists. The results of this review were published in INFCIRC/254/Rev. 9/Part 1 and INFCIRC/254/Rev. 7/Part 2. The Group is about to embark on a comprehensive review of the control lists in order to address new technological challenges. As far as the Guidelines are concerned, the Group worked on the strengthening of export controls of enrichment and reprocessing technologies and on making the adherence to the Additional Protocol a condition for nuclear supply.

Beginning in 2005, the NSG also examined issues raised by the US-India Joint Statement of July 2005, and possible NSG-India civilian nuclear cooperation. In September 2008 NSG Participating Governments adopted a policy statement on civil nuclear cooperation with the IAEA-safeguarded Indian civil nuclear program. The policy is elaborated in IAEA document INFCIRC/734.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I wish to recall that on 30 March 2009, the Hungarian Parliament approved a proposal on the enlargement of our nuclear power plant in Paks by one or two units. This decision opens new avenues in the Hungarian nuclear energy industry. Our experts have been working hard on identifying the best models to help meet our ambitions, and on the comprehensive review of existing regulations, which is indispensable to meet the strict requirements of a constantly evolving international safeguards system. Authorities will have to pay particular attention to physical protection, and to the application of nonproliferation regulations with regard to nuclear dual-use technologies.

We are convinced that our efforts to create the appropriate national legal framework would not be complete without incorporating the experience of international export control regimes, in particular the NSG. Hungary therefore hopes that these regimes will become universally recognized in order to enhance their effectiveness.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman!