



Mr. President,

May I take this opportunity to extend to you our sincere congratulations on your election as President of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly. You may safely count on my delegation's full support in the discharge of your important responsibilities.

Mr. President,

Along with our partners in the European Union, Hungary strongly condemns any form of terrorism. In this regard, we fully support the important work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council. We hope that its reinvigorated activity, including planned visits by the CTC to Member States, will contribute to the enhancement of our capability to combat terrorism. It is of utmost importance to provide assistance for the strengthening of preparedness of those countries that are eager to tackle the menace originating from their territory.

Substantial work has been undertaken as regards the freezing of funds and financial resources with a view to preventing the financing of terrorism. The United Nations has to continue to be a key player in this fight. To achieve real and tangible results in this regard, we have to ensure the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, and the accession of the largest possible number of states to the international conventions and protocols to combat terrorism. Hungary has done its part to this end.

Mr. President,

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery continue to be a clear and present threat to international peace and security. New discoveries of large-scale nuclear weapon programs, networks of illicit trafficking in nuclear material and technology and the ill-conceived policies of denial and deceit about their purpose and nature, remain a most serious concern to the international community. There is a growing recognition, shared by Hungary, that these programs imply most serious risks of proliferation as well. The danger of having nuclear, biological and chemical weapons in the hands of rogue states, terrorist groups or for that matter any other non-state actors that are a menace to our world, represent new major security challenges. In this regard, we must act together in a decisive manner both regionally and globally.

In this respect, Hungary strongly supports the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540, calling on all states to establish effective national export controls. We call for the full implementation of this resolution. In addition to that, we are prepared to assist others in doing so.

In our fast-changing security environment worldwide, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons /NPT/ is and should remain the cornerstone of the universal non-proliferation regime. Along with our EU partners, we are committed to safeguard the authority and the integrity of the Treaty. It is also in this context that we are looking forward to the 7th Review Conference of the NPT next year.

Mr. President,

We should continue our efforts in the field of conflict prevention and post-conflict crisis management. For millions of peoples in conflict areas these efforts mean hope for peace, a better and more secure future.

We are confident that the joint efforts of the Iraqi people and the international community will lead to a democratic and prosperous Iraq living in peace with itself and with its neighbours. Hungary strongly condemns the terrorist acts as well as the kidnappings aimed at undermining the political and reconstruction process in that much-suffered country. The United Nations' contribution is essential for the success. Our organization has already proved to be effective in advancing the political process when it seemed to come to a standstill.

Hungary continues to contribute along with the coalition forces to the stabilization and the improvement of the security conditions in Iraq. We deem it important that the relevant international organizations and institutions increase their joint efforts towards the same ends, including the training of Iraqi security personnel.

At this moment, our priorities in Iraq must be to assist the preparation to the national elections, as well as the drafting of a new constitution. Security Council resolution 1546 provides a key role for the UN in the political transition process: its ample experience in the establishment of democratic institutions, rule of law, promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as electoral assistance can and should be utilised.

Hungary views the potentially successful realization of the presidential and then the parliamentary elections in Afghanistan as important steps towards the normalization of the political situation in the country. We welcome the fact that despite the unsatisfactory security conditions, the preparations of the presidential elections to be held in October this year are making progress.

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The situation in the Balkans continues to remain in the focus of our attention. The overall developments in the region and the efforts of the international organizations have now resulted in a calm, but fragile political environment. In this respect, Hungary is committed to maintaining its presence in the international missions in the service of peace and stability in that region so close to us.

By the same token, we are following with serious concern the deterioration of the human rights situation in our immediate neighbourhood, in Serbia-Montenegro. It is particularly alarming that the number of incidents against the non-Serb population, including the Hungarian community is on the rise. Hungary once again calls upon the Serbian authorities to take the necessary measures in order to stop and to prevent these violent acts as well as to identify, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of these serious crimes of physical abuses, as well as psychological threats and intimidation. We are looking forward to the results of international monitoring currently under way.

Mr. President,

Along with the Major Event meeting of 2005, next year will be a particularly important one for the United Nations. In the course of addressing the burning issues on our agenda, we have to take a long, hard look at our tasks, including the review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration of 2000 adopted by the Heads of States and Governments. In our view, it needs careful preparation, vision, political determination and courage to act. Hungary stands ready and is willing to take its share in this process.

Thank you, Mr. President