

**Statement of
of the Republic of Poland
General Debate – II NPT Preparatory Committee**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start with pleasant element of my today intervention and congratulate you, Ambassador Bugajski on your appointment as a Chair of this second session of the Preparatory Committee. Assuming this function you have become, together with ambassador Wyzner twenty years ago, a part of the exclusive group of eminent Polish diplomats who have been privileged to chair such event. Poland highly appreciates all work you have done in the course of the preparations to the Preparatory Committee. I wish to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your important mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement which will be delivered by the representative of the European Union.

Due to the exceptional importance of the current Non-Proliferation Treaty review cycle and involvement of Poland in the attainment of the goals and objectives of the NPT, I would like to emphasize some aspects which are particularly important in our assessment.

Mr. Chairman,

Supporting and promoting the existing international law has been made one of the Polish priorities in the Security Council. As a current non-permanent member of the Security Council Poland is especially devoted to maintaining the primacy of the rules-based order. The NPT since its entry into force has been the central piece of the global regime for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. It has constantly stimulated international efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, to create a nuclear weapon free world and to enable access to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Poland remains committed to strengthening each of the NPT's mutually reinforcing pillars. Non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy are complementary goals and should be pursued together, systematically and with equal determination.

Current geopolitical challenges only underline the role of the Treaty in this respect and the necessity to strengthen it. Let me mention some of them:

- the rapid development of the DPRK's nuclear programme, however we took note of the latest DPRK's declaration and we expect Pyongyang to deliver on it;
- the uncertain future of the JCPOA;
- lack of progress on the Conference on the establishment of the WMD Free Zone in the Middle East; and
- increasing divisions on the terms and pace of nuclear disarmament.

Despite all these circumstances the NPT continues to be the essential and in reality, unique part of the modern security system as well as the ultimate point of reference for the initiatives in non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

The current review cycle is yet another opportunity to reaffirm the integrity and viability of the NPT. The states parties should therefore make a full use of all opportunities to review the implementation of the treaty. It regards not only discussions held at the Review Conference, but also during the preparatory committee meetings. They have a role not only in building a good climate for the Review Conference but also in testing ideas and bridging differences. It was therefore our sincere intension to ensure the highest level of transparency and inclusiveness during the preparatory phase to this conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear disarmament remains a fundamental pillar of the NPT. We all share a common vision of a world without nuclear weapons. Poland believes that the only way to achieve it, is through effective, verifiable and irreversible disarmament. It will be possible only when all states work in unison and are convinced about benefits of this process for their security. Therefore, we support the progressive step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament as the best way to achieve our commonly shared goal.

We focus on preserving the integrity and vitality of the NPT Treaty as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation system. This conviction has brought us to assume chairmanship of the 2018 NPT Preparatory Committee. We are committed to strengthening existing organizations like the International Atomic Energy Agency, to working towards entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and to commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other explosive devices (*Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty – FMCT*).

Moreover, we are intensively working on establishing a robust and credible verification regime of concrete nuclear disarmament measures. This includes our visible role in the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV) and in the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Verification (UN GGE). Additionally it is flanked by Polish contribution to the works of High-Level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The non-proliferation regime has been consistently challenged by non-state actors, who seek access to WMD related material and technologies. Therefore, Poland strongly supports achieving the highest possible level of nuclear security within a framework of the IAEA. From the very beginning we have been actively involved in works of Proliferation Security Initiative as well as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Moreover, by assuming the Chairmanship of the Hague Code of Conduct against proliferation of the ballistic missiles for the period 2017-2018, Poland has clearly demonstrated that interlinked proliferation of missiles and nuclear technologies also remain on our security radar. Moreover, we very much value the role of the export control regimes as complementary tools to the NPT provisions in curbing the illicit proliferation efforts.

Let me also highlight the vital role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the field of non-proliferation. The IAEA's system of safeguards is fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays indispensable role in the implementation of the NPT. Poland supports the strengthening of the IAEA safeguards systems, including universal adherence to comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocol as the verification standard.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to renew our support for the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy worldwide. Poland's Ministry of Energy updates plan to implement nuclear power programme. It is aimed at diversification of electricity generation structure, ensuring security of energy supply and reducing negative energy sector's impact on environment. Poland pledges full transparency with regard to its future activities in the domain of nuclear energy. We have also committed to the highest level of nuclear security. In the past Poland has hosted several

missions of the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure that Polish nuclear infrastructure meets all international standards and best practices in that field.

Mr. Chairman,

As we are approaching the 50th Anniversary of the NPT, we need to find the right perspective and restore the right balance. We should be calming down the emotions and restoring the spirit of trust and cooperation. We should focus on how to make NPT deliver and how to make it fit for the future. Let me therefore reiterate our unconditional support for the NPT and commitment to its full and balanced implementation. We call on all state parties to take proactive, but at the same time constructive and flexible approach in order to ensure substantial outcome of the II Preparatory Committee. We hope it will give a strong and positive impetus to the review cycle and pave the way towards the successful 2020 Review Conference.

Thank you Mr. Chairman