



# REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

750 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL. (212) 744-2506

*Check against delivery*

*STATEMENT BY*

***H.E. JOANNA WRONECKA***

***PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS***

**THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE TO THE 2020  
REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-  
PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**GENERAL DEBATE**

**NEW YORK, 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019**

*Mr. Chairman,*

Let me start with congratulating you, Ambassador Syed Md Hasrin Syed Hussin, on your appointment as the Chair of the third session of the Preparatory Committee. We wish you success in discharging this important function. You can be assured of full support and cooperation of the Delegation of Poland.

Poland fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Building upon it, I would like to stress several issues in my national capacity.

*Mr. Chairman,*

We all reiterate that the NPT is the cornerstone of non-proliferation and disarmament efforts, and facilitates the peaceful use of nuclear energy for development and prosperity. The Treaty has proven its strength and has become the essential part of the modern security system as well as the ultimate point of reference for the initiatives related to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Ambassador Robert T. Grey, a former U.S. arms control negotiator, described the NPT as “in many ways as important, as the UN Charter itself”.

However, over the years the NPT has been tested and challenged. Yet, through constant application, it has adapted successfully to changing circumstances and evolved to meet challenges of contemporary world. Today the ever more difficult political realities call for even more efforts to uphold the legacy of the NPT and to strengthen its effectiveness.

Next year, as we will be celebrating 50 anniversary of its entry into force, we cannot miss the opportunity to confirm our commitment to its letter and spirit. To this end, we need to elaborate a shared vision of constructive and successful outcome and find a compromise between our ambitions and the reality on the ground.

Poland is ready to do its part in that respect. My country has been a long-standing supporter of strengthening non-proliferation norms, and tries to contribute to this goal in a pragmatic and credible manner. This can be illustrated inter alia by our last year's Chairmanship of the Second Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the NPT. In Geneva we have outlined paths towards the successful outcome of the upcoming Review Conference, inter alia by presenting the Chair's Reflection on the State of the NPT. Together with the Netherlands we have developed cooperation between the chairs of subsequent PrepComs at the level unprecedented for the NPT review cycle. Even after conclusion of our two chairmanships we decided to take stock of our work by, inter alia, submitting the Inter-Chair working paper on conclusions and recommendation for this PrepCom. We hope they will constitute a point of departure for our successors in upholding the integrity and credibility of the NPT and securing its effective implementation. Strengthening of the review process seems crucial in this respect. We will have opportunity to elaborate on this during a side-event organized together with our Dutch partners on Monday morning.

*Mr. Chairman,*

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.

Unfortunately, current security situation is not conducive to nuclear disarmament. In fact, in recent months we have witnessed constant degradation of the global security environment. The best example of this trend is the persistent violation of the INF Treaty by the Russian Federation. Unless the Russian Federation destroys in a verifiable way all of its 9M729 missile systems, it will bear the sole responsibility for the end

of the INF Treaty. This will have negative impact on security situation in Europe, and as such – for the current NPT review cycle.

Therefore we have to carefully guard and protect non-proliferation and disarmament architecture we all have been benefiting from, with the NPT at the center of our efforts.

At the same time, while committed to preserving existing frameworks and structures, we should all cooperate in order to:

1) strengthening existing organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency,

2) bringing into force the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and

3) commencing 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). In this context, we welcome the report presented by the High-Level FMCT expert preparatory group. We hope it will facilitate the process leading to the start of the negotiations of the Treaty.

Besides these goals, Poland is actively engaged in intensive work on credible verification of nuclear disarmament pursued in international fora. 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). In this regard, we welcome recent consensual adoption of the GGE report. All these activities, focused on concrete solutions and aiming at strengthening international cooperation and confidence building measures, underpin nuclear disarmament efforts.

*Mr. Chairman,*

Although the darkest scenarios from the past has not materialized, the present danger of nuclear proliferation did not evaporated at all. The

possible proliferation of nuclear technologies and capabilities, to state and non-state actors, and its consequences, are still of serious concern, and need our sustained attention and engagement.

The most prominent example is the DPRK. Despite encouraging diplomatic developments on the Korean Peninsula, a lasting peace will not be achieved without the denuclearization of the DPRK in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, in accordance with several UN Security Council resolutions. The situation in the Middle East needs also our attention. We are firm in our conviction that Iran must continue to fulfill all of its nuclear-related commitments under the NPT, as well as the JCPOA.

Therefore Poland strongly supports achieving the highest possible level of nuclear security within a framework of the IAEA and beyond. The IAEA's system of safeguards constitutes a fundamental component of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and plays an 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.

Moreover, from the very beginning we have been actively involved in work of the Proliferation Security Initiative, which still plays significant role in stopping trafficking of WMD, their delivery systems and related materials. The same applies to the Hague Code of Conduct against proliferation of the ballistic missiles (HCoC). By assuming the Chairmanship of the HCoC for the period 2017-2018, Poland has clearly demonstrated that interlinked proliferation of missiles and nuclear technologies remains on our security radar.

Furthermore, we very much value the role of the export control regimes as complementary tools to the NPT provisions in curbing the illicit proliferation efforts. We remain committed to strive for optimal transparency in this field.

*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 are also committed to the highest level of nuclear security. In the past, Poland has hosted several missions of 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 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NPT we should focus on how we could enhance the NPT through this review process, and make it continue fulfilling its important and unique role in the future for the benefit of all of us.

Let me therefore reaffirm our unconditional support for the NPT and our 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 3rd Preparatory Committee. In this context we reiterate our strong support for the nomination of Ambassador Raphael Grossi as the President of the 2020 Review Conference. We hope that positive outcome of the PrepCom, both substantial and procedural, will give a strong and positive impetus to the review cycle and pave the way towards the successful Review Conference.

*Thank you*