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STATEMENT BY

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

CLUSTER 1

NEW YORK, 2ND MAY 2019

Mr. Chairman,

Poland fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

Allow me to add couple of remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear disarmament remains an indispensable part of the Polish security policy. Poland shares the vision of the world without nuclear weapons and in this context stresses the uniqueness of the NPT as the only credible instrument to achieve this goal. To this end all States Parties must fully adhere to all provisions of the NPT.

History of disarmament has clearly prompts that this complicated process has never been carried out in vacuum and beyond the context of current political circumstances. Therefore Poland deeply believes that progress in disarmament is not possible without creation of appropriate security conditions. Unfortunately the strategic security environment has significantly deteriorated and the rules-based order is increasingly being challenged. It is therefore of paramount importance that all disarmament commitments under existing treaties are honored.

Regrettably, in our part of Europe, we still have to face the consequences of the actions taken in contradiction to the international commitments related to international security, including nuclear weapons guarantees. The violation of the Budapest Memorandum by the Russian Federation has significantly eroded the level of trust and undermined the pillars of nuclear disarmament & non-proliferation regime.

The same applies to the erosion of the INF Treaty. Its constant violation by the Russian Federation hampers nuclear disarmaments efforts and puts the whole Euro-Atlantic security architecture under question. It is needless to say that the future of the INF will have significant impact for the security perception in Europe, and as such for the current NPT review cycle.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland remains convinced that progressive, step-by-step approach based on the 2010 Action Plan remains the only realistic and valid roadmap for nuclear disarmament. Only through real engagement of all States in credible initiatives enhancing transparency, reducing risks, building confidence and strengthening verification, we could make real and stable progress toward nuclear disarmament. Also trust is crucial to move things forward and political leaders of the past have proven in particular in Reykjavik that “impossible can be done”.

At this point let me stress a few undertakings directly contributing towards this objectives:

1. The CTBT is of crucial importance to strengthening the transparency and verification regime. We consider its universalization and entry into force to be a top priority. We encourage the States, particularly those listed in Annex 2, to sign and ratify the Treaty without further delay.
2. Starting negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) continues to be key priority for Poland. We acknowledge the progress made in this regard. We hope that recommendations of the High-Level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group will facilitate the process of the negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament.
3. Effective disarmament depends on adequate tools to secure verification. In this respect we welcome the efforts of the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification and the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification. We hope that both bodies will contribute to building trust and promoting nuclear disarmament “in the spirit” of the NPT.
4. Poland is committed to enhanced transparency and verification which we consider the prerequisite for any real disarmament. We have been engaged nationally and multilaterally in efforts to make nuclear arsenals more transparent and verifiable. Our experts have been actively involved in the works of the FMCT HL Group, IPNDV and GGE.

Mr. Chairman,

We are well aware how difficult and complicated is achieving world without weapons and what is at stake. My country for decades experienced living under nuclear shadow. We know the risks but we are realistic, with sober approach to disarmament and its multidimensional aspects. There are no miraculous solutions for the goal of effective, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament. Only by addressing both the security as well as humanitarian dimensions of nuclear weapons, we can take the incremental steps that enhance our security and provide a chance of reaching a world without nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your attention.