POLAND

58TH SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST COMMITTEE

STATEMENT
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR KRZYSZTOF JAKUBOWSKI

INTRODUCTION

OF DRAFT RESOLUTION
ON

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE
PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION,
STOCKPILING AND USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND
ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

21 OCTOBER 2003
Mr Chairman,

It is a honour and pleasure to introduce, on behalf of the Delegation of Poland, a draft resolution on the implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention, a document A/C.158/L.41.

This year's preparations for as well as a work on the draft resolution have been influenced significantly by important developments and events in the domain of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

From the 28th of April to the 9th of May 2003, representatives of the 151 States Members of the OPCW convened in The Hague for the First Review Conference of the Convention. The States Parties reaffirmed at the Review Conference their commitment to achieving the purpose and object of the CWC.

This very week the Conference of the States Parties is being held in The Hague. The participating States shall give their guidance on the implementation of the decisions of the Review Conference.

The Chemical Weapons Convention is a crucially and increasingly important element in the legal framework to strengthen international security and to solidify non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Nowadays: as we all know only too well, its effective and full implementation requires additional significance as it constitutes in itself an important contribution to the global fight against terrorism.

Mr Chairman,

Since the Convention and its implementation contribute to enhancing international peace and security, it is important for the United Nations to adopt a resolution on this subject, thus supporting and promoting its object and purpose.

Proceeding from this fundamental consideration and taking into account the results of the First Review Conference Poland prepared a new draft text of the resolution.

Our basic assumption and goal was to ensure, like over last 5 years, a consensus approval of the resolution. Consensus is crucial to provide an unequivocal support of the United Nations to the implementation of the Convention.

The draft text was presented at the open ended consultations held on Tuesday, 14th October, with participation of more than 10 Delegations. During those consultations and at many bilateral meetings, 57 actually. Delegations expressed their support for the draft text of the resolution and readiness to join consensus.

Mr Chairman,

Let me now present major changes in this year's draft resolution in comparison with the resolution adopted last year. As it has been stressed before,
the draft reflects results of the First Review Conference. A new language was taken entirely from the text of the Political Declaration of the Review Conference. There are 8 new operational paragraphs added. They reinforce the language of the resolution of last year in three spheres, namely: the universality and implementation of the CWC as well as fostering an international co-operation and assistance.

Let me stress that a new paragraph (para. 10) on the fostering an international co-operation and assistance was introduced to the resolution for the first time. This is an important development reaching far beyond the old text.

An important task in the elaboration of the draft CWC resolution has been to ensure as broad geographical support as possible. Thus, my delegation has undertaken a series of consultations on the possibility of opening the text for co-sponsorship. In the course of those extensive consultations we have been strongly advised not to open the text for co-sponsorship. The main reason has been that in the case of the opening of text for new sponsors it would be very difficult to ensure regional and political balance among them and to preserve the integrity of the draft. Delegations expressed their clear preference for preservation of a broad consensus around the draft CWC resolution as it stands. We have decided to follow that advice and not to seek additional co-sponsors. Poland will remain the only sponsor of the resolution.

At the same time, we are ready for consultations in Geneva and in The Hague on the possibility to achieve a broad and balanced co-sponsorship for the resolution in years to come.

Mr Chairman,

Let me express gratitude and thanks to all the Delegations participating in the extensive consultations on the new draft resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

These consultations confirmed the existence of a broad political support in all regions for the implementation of the Convention in its entirety.

The draft resolution before you, Distinguished Colleagues, is a material expression of this support.

Overall, we are convinced, that the draft of this year's resolution is well balanced. It gives an unequivocal support of the United Nations to the full and effective implementation of all the provisions of the Convention.

Therefore, the Delegation of Poland asks for the approval of the draft resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention without a vote.