Mr. Chairman,

As I take the floor for the first time during this session of the First Committee, allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Badji, for the assumption of this high office. It is not the first time that Senegal - through its best diplomats - shows its deep commitment to the idea of disarmament and non-proliferation. We remember our fruitful co-operation with your delegation in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva within the framework of the so-called "P6" - platform of co-operation of the CD Presidents.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today I wish to come back to the important event that took place in this room on 27 September this year - the High-Level Meeting on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Meeting was organized by Poland as to sole sponsor of the United Nations Resolution on Chemical Weapons Convention implementation and the Kingdom of Netherlands, as the Host Country of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. It was attended by almost 40 foreign ministers as well as other senior representatives from over 120 Member States of the United Nations and the relevant international organizations including IAEA, CTBTO and non-governmental organizations. The Meeting was co-chaired by Ms Anna Fotyga, Foreign Minister of Poland and Mr. Maxime Verhagen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, who made the opening statements.

Presence of the UN Secretary General, of the OPCW Director-General, almost 40 Foreign Ministers and other representatives from more than 120 States confirmed that the Chemical Weapons Convention and its implementation contribute to enhancing international peace and security. We highlighted the important role to be played by United Nations in meeting the growing dangers of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

We are very satisfied with the great support expressed by the Ministers for multilateralism as a true way to effectively deal with security and non-proliferation challenges and threats. The Meeting was an important disarmament and non-proliferation event during the current session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Meeting also showed a great interest of the international community working at the United Nations to be actively engaged in the strengthening the norms and activities to stem danger of proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
In the concluding Statement from the Meeting, which reflected views which we collected during the preparations of the meeting:
- we commemorated all victims of chemical weapons,
- we reaffirmed our commitment to multilateralism and object and purpose of the Convention,
- we confirmed that the full implementation and universal adherence to the Convention are fundamental to the achievement of its objective and purpose. The Meeting confirmed importance that all States that have not yet join CWC States should become parties to the Convention without delay.

As the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Anna Fotyga said during the High-Level Meeting: we hope that the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons – as successful examples of multilateralism – will serve as good examples for other areas of disarmament and non-proliferation. We also hope that using such good examples as a basis we will be able to overcome stalemate or crisis in that area.

We are also glad that this special meeting took place here, in the United Nations. It has to be noted that the Meeting was a good example of building synergies between the United Nations and other international organizations dealing with disarmament and non-proliferation. We welcome such cooperation and hope for its further development. It was always a position of Poland that the UN should be strengthened in order to deal effectively with the current challenges, with an emphasis on the issues in the field of international security. The High Level Meeting was a proof that the United Nations remains a crucial institution for developing and supporting multilateral solutions in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Last but not least, allow me to thank our Dutch colleagues for a perfect co-operation in preparations of this important event. Our appreciation also goes to Director General of the OPCW, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, and UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ambassador Sergio de Queiruz Duarte and their teams for their assistance and support in the organisation of the High-Level Meeting.

Thank you for your attention.