STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF POLAND
TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THE HAGUE

UNITED NATIONS FIRST COMMITTEE
THEMATIC DEBATE ON OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

NEW YORK, 22ND OCTOBER 2012
Mr. President,

1. It is an honour and pleasure for me to introduce, on behalf of the Delegation of Poland, a draft Resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

2. The continued work on the CWC Resolution is a concrete input Poland has made throughout many years to promote the effective prohibition of chemical weapons. Support for full and effective implementation of the Convention and its universality are core objectives of Poland’s efforts for the total prohibition of chemical weapons.

3. The Resolution on the implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention is a unique document. It emphasises the importance of the universality of the Convention. It also provides support of the United Nations for all four pillars of the Convention. The first of these is the support for the irreversible destruction of all chemical weapons and their means of production. The second is non-proliferation, to ensure that new chemical weapons do not emerge. The third is assistance and protection for States Parties to defend themselves against the possible use of chemical weapons. And the fourth pillar is international cooperation to promote the peaceful uses of chemistry.

4. By adopting the Resolution by consensus every year the United Nations has expressed unequivocal support for the prohibition of chemical weapons.

5. We consider that the text of this year’s draft Resolution is well balanced. We did introduce this year two changes to the draft. One to reflect the need to eliminate the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles in the shortest time possible and second to recognize the preparatory work towards the Third Review Conference of the CWC.

6. During consultations on the text, both in The Hague and in New York, we discussed several proposals to be reflected in this year’s draft. We found however that there is no consensus support to introduce new proposals.

7. Our basic goal was to ensure, like in previous years, a consensus approval for the Resolution. It is crucial to provide continued unequivocal support of the United Nations to the implementation of the Convention.

8. During the extensive bilateral and open-ended informal consultations attended by many Delegations, we received a broad support and willingness to join consensus on the proposed draft resolution.

9. Let me express our gratitude to all the Delegations participating in our extensive consultations on this year’s draft. We found however that there is no consensus support to introduce new proposals.

10. As it was the case in previous years Poland continues to serve as the sole sponsor of the Resolution.

11. Delegation of Poland asks for the approval of the draft Resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention without a vote.

Mr. President,

1. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you on the International meeting on chemical safety and security. The meeting organized by Poland and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) will take place in Tarnów, Poland, on 8 and 9 November 2012.

2. The meeting in Tarnów, will be a major international gathering, which will cover the chemical safety and security in a holistic and comprehensive way. Representatives of states, international organizations, chemical industries and academia, gathered in Tarnów, will explore national approaches and innovative strategies to address the chemical safety and security issues. They will identify steps that should be taken to enhance chemical safety and security worldwide, while ensuring economic growth and development.

3. The meeting will promote the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention. It will support the engagement of the OPCW to enhance national capacity-building for research, development, storage, production, and safe use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited by the Convention. It will create an opportunity to raise assistance needs in the areas of chemical safety and security. I would like to extend the invitation to attend the meeting to all members of the UN.

4. A concept note of the meeting will be made available for the Delegations.

Thank you.