Statement by

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United Nations General Assembly
First Committee

Introduction of the draft resolution on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (under Agenda Item 99 (v))

New York, 24th October 2013
Mr. Chairman

Since this is the first time my delegation takes the floor I would like to congratulate you and members of the Bureau upon assumption of your important duties. I would like to assure you about Poland’s full support for your work.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates

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. The continued work and sole sponsorship of the CWC Resolution is a Polish contribution to the efforts aimed at freeing world of chemical weapons.

The resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention underlines the exceptional role of the CWC in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. For more than 16 years the Convention have been contributing to enhancing international peace and security. Recently, by providing a basis for the disarmament of chemical weapons program in Syria, the Convention confirmed in practice its relevance and validity. A unique and exceptional role of the Convention - one of the most successful disarmament and non-proliferation instruments - has been recently recognized by the Nobel Committee by awarding the Peace Prize to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The United Nations community has expressed every year unequivocal support for the implementation of the CWC and the prohibition of chemical weapons by adopting the Resolution without a vote. This year the resolution on CWC implementation is of special importance. It confirms the unity of the United Nations system in the extraordinary situation when the chemical weapons have been used in Syria, and Syria joined the Chemical Weapons Convention.

After the consensus support for both the OPCW Executive Council decision and the UN Security Council resolution we believe the First Committee resolution on CWC implementation should also enjoy a consensus support. It is important to underline that the proposed draft text reflects both, the factual situation and the broad support from the UN community.

This year’s draft resolution reflects also the outcome of the Third Review Conference of the CWC, which took place in The Hague in April and was conducted under chairmanship of Poland. The Final Document of the Conference, which was adopted by consensus, contributes to further strengthening the mission of the OPCW and the CWC implementation. This Document provides guidance for the future dimensions of the implementation of the Convention and was well reflected in the draft Resolution. Therefore, the draft is longer than in previous years. At the same time we wish to reiterate that the draft resolution will evolve to reflect the changes in the implementation of the Convention and be more concise in the years to come.

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

Let me express our gratitude to all the delegations participating in the consultations on this year’s draft Resolution. They confirmed existence of a broad political support at the United Nations for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. The draft Resolution presented today is an expression of this support.

As in previous years Poland continues to serve as the sole sponsor of the Resolution.

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