STATEMENT BY

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71ST UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST COMMITTEE
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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me say, that for Poland, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is an important element of our security policy. We share the commitment of a world without nuclear weapons and a need for concerted action to achieve this goal.

While Poland fully subscribes to the statements delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of Australia on behalf of NPDI and group of 29 states, we would like to share some elements of our national reflection, which should be seriously taken into account in our deliberations.

Mr. Chairman

The nuclear disarmament process largely depends on regional security environment. We cannot ignore geopolitical reality. Recent months have brought us alarming development of the situation in the North East Asia.

We are concerned about growing tensions on the Korean Peninsula due to provocative actions undertaken by the DPRK. Pyongyang’s nuclear and missile programmes pose a serious threat to the security and stability of the region. Poland is also concerned about growing risk of proliferation of sensitive technologies to other states or non-state actors. We have strongly condemned nuclear & ICBM tests conducted by Pyongyang, which are giving a new dimension to the threat posed by the DPRK and require strong reaction from the international community.

Let me mention in this context The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which seems to be the best deal we can have under the challenging circumstances. In our opinion it should remain in force despite the fact it is not perfect. It allows for robust verification measures as well as for decreasing the number of centrifuges and possibility to ship out of the country excessive stocks of low-enriched uranium (LEU). Hence, the JCPOA is contributing to de-escalation and stability.

In our part of Europe, we still have to face the consequences of the actions taken in contradiction to the international commitments in the sphere of security, including nuclear weapons guarantees.

The current geopolitical situation underlines the need to strengthen and uphold the NPT and we highlight the need for further bold steps in this respect, including in the 2020 NPT Review Cycle.
Mr. Chairman

In these difficult and serious circumstances, as the country chairing next NPT PrepCom in 2018, let me focus on the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The treaty, which objectives are, let me remind us:

- to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology,
- to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and
- to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament,

is still crucial for our international security architecture and for safeguarding our security and stability, and should remain so in the future.

The NPT is necessary to keep the right course towards realisation of these three treaty’s pillars provisions and to maintain a high level of countries’ involvement in its implementation.

We keep on reiterating that full implementation of the NPT requires efforts of all states. The global solutions within the disarmament and non-proliferation fields can be effective and sustainable only if worked out together with the nuclear states. Particularly, with regard to nuclear disarmament processes any discussion has to be inclusive and pragmatic, it has to respect security objectives and commitments of all states and it has to take into account the central role of the NPT. There is no alternative to this forum.

The NPT regime has to be preserved. At the same time it has to be strengthened in order to advance implementation of its commitments and requirements. Any action which could result in weakening this treaty should be avoided in the interest of all of us.

Next year we’ll be in a middle of the current NPT’s review process. The First Prepcom is already behind us. It passed in good atmosphere and we would like to express our gratitude towards Dutch chairmanship, and particularly to ambassador Henk-Cor Van der Kwast and his collaborators.

We hope the next one will also be positive and will contribute to robust results of 2020 Review Conference, contributing to the Treaty enhancement and its further implementation. As a future Chair of this second PREPCOM we count on your support and cooperation.
Mr. Chairman,

The reality is that there will be no shortcuts, no quick fixes if our goal is effective, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament. Only by addressing both the security as well as humanitarian dimensions of nuclear weapons can we take the incremental but necessary steps that will enhance security for all and provide the best chance of reaching a world without nuclear weapons.

In our deep believe, the right answer and the best proposal for moving forward nuclear disarmament is contained in the progressive approach concept. Under this concept there is an extended list of different measures to be undertaken in logic and consistent manner in order to strengthen the international legal regime, to reduce the risk and take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. Let me just to mention some of them:

- achieving the early entry into force of the CTBT;
- negotiating a verifiable and non-discriminatory treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;
- reaching limits set in the New START agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation.”

Mr. Chairman,

In order to move forward on nuclear disarmament, the international community, as it was raised many times, should focus not on what differs us but on what unites us. We believe in consensus and good faith, which should dominate in disarmament negotiations. With this believe we have engaged in the NPT Review process as a chair of the Second PrepCom.

In this context, as an example of positive and constructive activities supporting our shared goal, let me only shortly mention two of many different initiatives, my country is engaged in:

- a trustworthy verification of nuclear disarmament. As the IPNDV’s work is gathering Nuclear Weapon States and Non-Nuclear Weapon States, we hope the continued work of this initiative will contribute to building trust and should promote approaching nuclear disarmament “in the spirit” of the NPT.
We believe that another important building block in the direction of nuclear disarmament would be an early commencement of the negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament on the fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT). In this context, welcoming establishment of the high-level expert preparatory group in accordance with the UNGA resolution 71/259, Poland contributed with a senior, experienced diplomat as a member of this group. We hope that results of its work will facilitate the process and will ultimately lead to the start of the negotiations of the Treaty. With this reference to the real, concrete engagement and partnership, which, we hope, will make us step closer towards a stable world, free of nuclear weapons I will end my intervention.

Mr. Chairman

Thank you very much for your attention.