Statement by Ambassador Piotr Stachańczyk
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland

at the plenary meeting of
the Open-ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament
Geneva, February 24, 2016
Mr. Chairman,

First of all I would like cordially congratulate you upon the assumption of your duty. We hope that you will be seeking the ways of putting together different views on nuclear disarmament, the ultimate goal shared by all in this room. Please be assured of our full support in this endeavor.

While Poland fully subscribe to the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of Canada on behalf of group of states, we would like to highlight some elements of our national reflection.

We intend to contribute constructively to the overall discussion and work of this group and to the final report, which should dully reflect all views presented during our deliberations. Only through inclusive debate and engagement of all stake-holders we will achieve real and effective progress.

Our prime opinion is that the global solutions within the disarmament and non-proliferation fields can be effective and sustainable only if worked out together with the nuclear states.

But nuclear disarmament is not a sole responsibility of the nuclear states. The whole process largely depends on regional security environment. We cannot ignore geopolitical reality. Solving regional security concerns will help to achieve our goal.

This is why we expect that regional security concerns, which in many cases are unequivocally linked to the nuclear issues, will be duly reflected in the final outcome of the OEWG.

Poland, despite current, well known, security challenges remains committed to international efforts toward stable and safe world for all countries. That includes creation of the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the NPT, in a way that promotes international stability and is based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

We are of the view that gradual nuclear disarmament is possible only while surrounded by wide array of security guarantees and credible assurances.

It is indispensable to create a net of multi- and bilateral agreements where necessary to reduce tensions and to build confident measures. These ideas
were, among others, behind the concept of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones, that should be established in accordance with guidance and principles agreed in 1999 by the UN Disarmament Commission.

Considering various possible approaches, reminded and presented yesterday by our panelists, we are still of the view that the building block concept guarantees the most credible and efficient way to achieve complete nuclear disarmament.

At the same time, we must remember that nuclear disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation are two, mutually reinforcing processes and cannot be considered separately. Recent developments, such as tests conducted by DPRK, prove that disarmament will not be efficient if not enough attention will be paid to the challenges posed by proliferation of materials that can be used for acquisition and manufacture of nuclear weapons and delivery systems.

Let me make remark in this regard, specially having in mind presented opinion on “irrelevant sequencing”. We have to carefully analyze the time and the content of potential new element to be put into the system, in order not to weaken the instruments we already have, as the NPT, and to avoid creation of the new stumbling block for universality of the global system.

Some part of our deliberations should also be dedicated to the issue of how to ensure universality of the future system. Its effectiveness and credibility will depend on universal adherence. How to attract states that still remain outside of the nonproliferation and disarmament architecture, especially the NPT?

Mr. Chairman,

The value of the final report of this Group will largely depend of its inclusiveness and ability to accommodate divergence of perceptions on nuclear disarmament issue. We hope that with a common engagement we will be able to achieve this goal.

Thank you very much for your attention.