The Preparatory Committee
to the 2015 NPT Review Conference

STATEMENT

by

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset of my intervention let me congratulate you on your appointment as the Chair of the first session of the Preparatory Committee to the 2015 NPT Review conference. I wish to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of the Polish Delegation’s full support and cooperation in the discharge of your important mandate.

I should also like to take this opportunity to extend congratulations to the other members of the Committee’s Bureau.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland fully associates itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Maria Marinaki on behalf of the European Union.

The condition of the nuclear non-proliferation regime has been strengthened by the consensus outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference and entry into force of the new START agreement. There is no doubt that these positive developments have contributed to restoring confidence in the non-proliferation regime. They have also raised the expectations of international community regarding the results of the new review cycle. It is our joint responsibility of all NPT member states to dully address the remaining challenges related to the three pillars of the Treaty.

The most critical issues are nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation including cases of non-compliance with the Treaty provisions and the creation of Weapons of Mass Destruction free zone in the Middle East.
Mr. Chairman,

Progress in nuclear disarmament is of utmost importance for the regime's future. The 2010 NPT Review Conference proposed certain actions in that regard. The key issue for Poland is to address "the question of all nuclear weapons regardless of their type and location" – that is so called tactical nuclear weapons, which in contrast to the strategic nuclear arsenals have not been covered by any legally binding arms control agreement.

A world free of nuclear weapons cannot be achieved without making non-strategic weapons an integral part of the general nuclear disarmament process. Minister Sikorski together with his Swedish counterpart - Minister Carl Bild made it clear in their op-ed published in February 2010.

We hope that nuclear weapon states will build on the positive experience of the new START Treaty and include the category of tactical nuclear weapons in their future reduction talks.

Before we reach this stage, it is important to lay the foundations for any future reductions by enhancing the transparency of existing nuclear arsenals and increasing mutual confidence. The 2010 NPT Conference committed the nuclear weapon states (NWS) to report on their progress in that regard. In due course of this PrepCom Poland together with the member states of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative will present a working document on this topic.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing. One cannot progress with nuclear disarmament without strengthening nuclear non-proliferation policies and improving verification mechanisms. The irreversible nuclear disarmament and the diminishing role of the nuclear weapons in NWS, can be used as an argument to discourage potential proliferators from acquiring these destructive weapons.

Non-proliferation is also important for upholding the integrity of the NPT. In view of the disturbing information on non-compliance of states with their
non-proliferation obligations this issue should remain very high on the agenda.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its safeguards system play a central role in that regard. Therefore Poland firmly advocates for universalization of the additional protocol agreements.

Mr. Chairman,

The 1995 NPT Resolution on the Middle East became the core issue during the 2010 Review Conference and it will also be at the forefront of the current review cycle debate. We hope that all interested states of the region will be able to participate in the conference that is to be held in Finland under auspices of the UN Secretary General. Their involvement is crucial to start the process leading to the creation of the WMD free zone, which should serve the interests of all countries in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

As we launch the new NPT cycle we can assume with some certainty that the road to the 2015 Review Conference will not be without bumps and obstacles. In fact differences and diverging views on the most critical issues are well known to everybody. Poland sincerely hopes that the upcoming debates during the current and future Preparatory Committee meetings will be conducted in a constructive way. Only by taking into account each others' interests and making an effort to find a common ground, we can ensure the success of this review cycle.

Thank you for your attention.