STATEMENT

by

H.E. Adam Bugajski
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland
to the UN Office and International Organizations in Vienna

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset let me congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of this first session of the Preparatory Committee. Poland highly appreciates all efforts you have undertaken in the run-up to the Preparatory Committee. I wish to assure you, Mr. Chairman, of Poland’s full support and cooperation in the discharge of your duties.

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

Mr. Chairman,

Poland endorses the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union as well as the statement of the NPDI.

Due to the exceptional importance of the current Non-Proliferation Treaty review cycle and Poland’s active involvement in the attainment of the goals and objectives of the NPT, I would like to emphasize some aspects which we consider to be of particular importance.

Before that, let me take this opportunity to remark that today is a significant day for my country. On the 3rd of May Poland celebrates the anniversary of adopting our first constitution of 1791. Therefore it is my particular pleasure to take the floor at this very special day.

Mr. Chairman,

The NPT has always been challenged by different external developments and internal dynamics. The new review cycle is no exception. Apart from several positive developments, including the agreement on the JCPOA, this cycle is also commenced against a few negative signs, for example the failure of the 2015
RevCon to agree on a final document or two nuclear tests conducted only last year by the DPRK.

On the road to the 2020 Review Conference and the 50th anniversary of the NPT we have yet another chance to change the course of affairs. To this end, we need to create a shared vision of a successful review cycle. Poland represents the view that we should find a compromise between our ambitions and the reality on the ground. In this endeavor process is equally important. We count on conducting a thorough review of implementation of all articles of the NPT as well as 2010 Review Conference Action Plan. Poland perceives this task as being very important and therefore has submitted a national report to this PrepCom, which will be updated towards the 2020.

The NPT State parties should make full use of all opportunities to review the implementation of the Treaty. This means that we attach special attention to the discussions held not only at the Review Conference but also during the Preparatory Committee sessions. They have a role not only in building a good climate for the Review Conference but also in testing ideas and bridging differences. In 2018 we will do our best to make sure the meeting will fulfill its goals and be based on inclusiveness and transparency. We welcome the fact that the Dutch Presidency adopted this approach from the outset of the review cycle.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland is vitally interested in nuclear disarmament. Achieving effective, verifiable and irreversible nuclear disarmament is only possible when all states work in unison and are convinced that this process strengthens their security. Poland believes that a progressive approach to nuclear disarmament fulfills these conditions.

As the EU rightly pointed out in its statement by quoting High Representative Federica Mogherini, the relevance of the NPT is even greater than before. Therefore, Poland’s focus is on preserving the integrity of the NPT as the cornerstone of the non-proliferation system. This conviction was behind the decision to assume Chairmanship of the 2018 NPT Preparatory Committee. We are committed to strengthening existing organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and working towards entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and commencement of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other explosive devices (Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty – FMCT).
The Polish determination to advance nuclear disarmament can be highlighted by our involvement in the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV) and in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI). As a member of the NPDI and also on national basis Poland has been advocating more transparency of nuclear weapon arsenals, particularly so called sub-strategic weapons, as a prerequisite of including them into the broader arms control and nuclear disarmament processes. Most recently Poland was asked to nominate its representative to the High-Level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group. We plan to actively participate in the work of this Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The non-proliferation regime has been challenged by terrorists, who seek access to WMD related material and technologies. Therefore Poland strongly supports achieving the highest possible level of nuclear security - globally, regionally and nationally. Last year, Poland joined countries that use only Low-Enriched Uranium (LEU) as a fuel for its research reactor. This achievement in connection with the successful conversion of the research reactor notably contributed to improving the nuclear security in Poland and in the region.

Poland emphasizes the important role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the field of non-proliferation. We strongly support all initiatives aimed at providing the IAEA with instruments it needs to carry out its important mandate. We call upon all states to co-operate with the Agency and introduce full transparency with regard to their sensitive nuclear activities. That also means universalization of the IAEA Additional Protocol as a safeguards standard, along with the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to register support for the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy worldwide. Poland’s Ministry of Energy reviews plans to implement a nuclear power programme. It is aimed at diversifying the electricity generation structure, ensuring security of energy supply and reducing the negative impact of energy sector on environment. Poland pledges full transparency with regard to its future activities in the domain of nuclear energy. We have also committed to the highest level of nuclear security. Poland hosted several missions of International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure that Polish nuclear infrastructure meets all international standards and best practices in that field.
Mr. Chairman,

During the new Review Cycle we face the task of re-confirming that the NPT is a firm cornerstone of the non-proliferation system. In order to do it and to overcome all differences that exist among us we need to be even more resourceful then before. Albert Einstein once said: “We cannot solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

Let me conclude by reiterating that The Non-Proliferation Treaty remains one of the pillars of global stability and order. It is our collective duty to ensure its vitality in the years to come.