STATEMENT BY

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2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)

MAIN COMMITTEE III

NEW YORK, MAY 5TH, 2015
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset let me congratulate you on your appointment as the Chair of the Main Committee 3. I wish to assure you of the Polish Delegation’s full support and cooperation in fulfilment of your important mandate.

Poland fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

I would also like to draw your attention to the relevant working papers submitted by the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

At the same time, I would like to refer to some elements related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, we consider particularly important from the national perspective.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In January 2014 the Polish national Nuclear Power Programme has been adopted by the government. It provides a roadmap for launching first ever nuclear power plant in Poland. It defines the roles and scope of responsibilities of all stakeholders, as well as, necessary measures to assure the highest level of safety and security. The Programme also approaches the issues of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste management. In line with the Programme, around 12% of our electricity should be powered by nuclear energy by 2030.

Developments with regard to the civilian nuclear capabilities touches upon also our research reactor. Poland committed itself to continuing the program of removal of highly-enriched uranium spent nuclear fuel with the aim of eliminating it from Polish territory by 2016. Last year, the 7th shipment of HEU spent fuel has been successfully implemented. The last shipment is scheduled for 2016 and thus all HEU fuel will be eliminated from the Polish soil. The whole process continues under the auspices of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative.
Mr. Chairman,

We undertake actions with regard to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, being fully aware of security and safety challenges. We consider nuclear and radiation safety to be of the utmost importance. International co-operation and sharing of experience and expertise amongst Member States is an important means of enhancing international nuclear safety standards.

Poland has taken concrete steps to minimize the threat of nuclear terrorism and to strengthen the chain of nuclear security which – as we all know - is only as strong as its weakest link. Thanks to all efforts we undertook, Poland ranked 6th in the Nuclear Threat Initiative index.

Poland believes that there is a number of events to serve upgrading and strengthening the awareness and measures in the sphere of nuclear security. We participate in the Nuclear Security Summits since inception of the process in 2010. Currently, with other participants of the NSS, we work on the outcome of the last summit to be held in 2016. We believe that achievements of the NSS will be transformed into concrete actions supporting existing international organisations and multilateral initiatives.

Let me also stress in this context the role and importance of technical cooperation and programmes, mostly in the framework of the IAEA’s activities. This cooperation helps a lot in building the responsible development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology, including Nuclear Safety and Security, Sustainable Energy, Health, Industrial Applications and many other field.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me refer to two initiatives we consider as an important support to the strengthening of the third pillar of the NPT.

One of them is the Capacity Building Initiative, currently submitted by France. As a country embarking on a nuclear power programme, we share French assessment that the capacity building is a key element of the responsible development of nuclear energy. At present we are in the process of analysing this project, including how to link it with the IAEA’s efforts.
It is worth to mention as well, the Peaceful Uses Initiative. Poland will consider ways and means to increase our involvement in this programme.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking into account a growing global demand for nuclear power, we expect this conference to make specific recommendations with regard to nuclear safety and security, supporting the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Thank you.