

REPUBLIC OF POLAND
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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S T A T E M E N T

by

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Delegation of the Republic of Poland to the First Committee
of the General Assembly of the United Nations

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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you Mr. Chairman on your election to this responsible function, and in wishing you a successful and effective chairmanship.

The European Union statement reflects fully Poland's position on the subjects on our agenda. I wish here to present Poland's views on the developments in the sphere of WMD non-proliferation and disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations cooperative efforts should remain in the very centre of our common security strategy for XXI century as many prognoses indicate more instability for the years ahead. We can expect more terrorism; terrorism, which is not driven by any clear political aims, but by desire to bring – as much as possible – death and destruction. The recent event in Bali is yet another reminder of these new terrible risks.

We must likewise expect more proliferation. The spread of weapons of mass destruction will be a terrifying amplifier of other risks and threats. Weapons of increasing range and destructive power are coming into possession of a growing number of states and non-state actors, including terrorists.

If these assumptions are correct, than all members of the United Nations must be ready to take consistent and coherent non-proliferation actions, using to this end all measures at their disposal, offered to them by the international law and national regulations.

There is a sense of urgency and the need of concentrated efforts of all states in this field. These efforts must remain an indispensable part of any comprehensive security strategy for the years to come.

Mr. Chairman,

Bearing in mind the growing danger of proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery one has to underscore the need to implement by all member states the international disarmament agreements and standards in the field of non-proliferation. Such adherence is clearly binding for all UN members by the power of UN Security Council Resolution 1540. In this respect – an effective functioning of the UN security and disarmament machinery is equally important.

Poland, as a member of the European Union, underlines the importance of multilateral treaty regimes as the preferred way of dealing with non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

The evolution of multilateral non-proliferation regime and development of its new forms is not equal to atrophy of the entire system. It is however an evidence of a regime adaptation, inviting more coherence and effectiveness in this field.

There are several new initiatives aimed at countering the proliferation threat such as Proliferation Security Initiative – Krakow Initiative, G-8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, the Co-operative Threat Reduction Programme, the Hague Code of Conduct for Ballistic Missiles. These initiatives focused on internationally, regionally and nationally oriented activities contribute to implementation of the goals set by the traditional non-proliferation instruments.

I wish to refer specifically to the Krakow Initiative - Proliferation Security Initiative, which builds a world-wide awareness of the danger posed by WMD and helps in promoting and developing practical responses. It also gives an impetus to a more dynamic and proactive approach to prevent proliferation of WMD, their means of delivery and related technologies.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland regrets that no consensus on non-proliferation and disarmament was reached at the recent UN Summit.

The threats imposed by WMD proliferation, to which no state is immune, point to a need of a serious reflection on the functioning of the disarmament machinery. We should not spare any efforts to forge a new global disarmament and non-proliferation consensus.

There is a need for a comprehensive review of the existing negotiating machinery and reviving the non-proliferation and disarmament regimes. Prof. Adam Daniel Rotfeld, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland recently suggested that under the auspices of the UN it could be established a group of experts to overview the efforts of existing regimes. Also a respected international independent research center could be requested to prepare a report with recommendations how to transform the existing UN institutions and mechanisms into a more effective, operational and efficient bodies.

Poland is ready to further contribute to this process and the overall discussion concerning the condition of the global disarmament and non-proliferation machinery.

Mr. Chairman,

In developing our thinking on the role of the UN and its bodies, including First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament, the Disarmament Commission, and other relevant international instruments, it is important to consider whether their agenda responds adequately to the new security threats and challenges. We see these bodies as complementary.

Poland will support all efforts aimed at strengthening of these bodies and their working methods to ensure better understanding, better co-operation and more result-oriented approaches.

Poland will chair the Conference on Disarmament in January 2006. In the place where many important disarmament initiatives were born we are going to use this opportunity to invigorate discussions how to overcome the Conference on Disarmament stalemate and how to move from virtual to real work. We hope to give the Conference an opportunity to address the issues which are key to stop erosion of its credibility.

Poland strongly believes that, at the time of security uncertainties, the work of the First Committee will enhance co-operative efforts, and will increase the capability of all states to act together. This will be our contribution to a new comprehensive non-proliferation strategy and to the world stability and security.

Thank you.