

**Statement by Ambassador Zdzisław Rapacki
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland
to the Conference on Disarmament
on the Second Anniversary of the PSI/Krakow Initiative
Geneva, 2 June, 2005**

Mr. President,

As I speak for the first time under your Presidency, allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of this high office and let me assure you of my delegation's continuing support for your efforts to bring the CD back to work.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

Today I wish to take the floor on the occasion of the Second Anniversary of the launching of the Proliferation Security Initiative also known as Krakow Initiative. The aim of the PSI, presented by the President of the United States of America on May 31, 2003, at the Wawel Castle in Kraków, is to advance international co-operation in related to interdiction of shipments of weapons of mass destruction and materials required to develop such weapons to state and non-state actors of proliferation concern. The PSI has no formal structure, headquarters, or chairperson. The core of its functioning consists of voluntary activities of countries that share concerns over international security and are determined to stop proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. I may say that the PSI has grown to a global dimension. Today, more than sixty countries from all over the world have expressed their readiness to support the Initiative. What's important, PSI is implemented in consistency with relevant provisions of international law and the laws of participating countries. The European Union, NATO, and the UN Secretary General confirmed their support for the Initiative. The PSI and the 2003 Statement of Interdiction Principles are in line with the spirit and letter of UN Security Council Resolution 1540.

My country has been active in the Initiative's development since its very outset. To date, under the PSI, Poland has organized an information exchange meeting for all Central and East European countries, a ground exercise in Wrocław, and Meeting in Krakow for more than sixty countries to mark the Initiative's first anniversary. These days (May 31 – June 2) in Ostrava, Poland and the Czech Republic are conducting "Bohemian Guard" exercise. With assistance from the United States and with a strong international participation this exercise will manifest the decisiveness and readiness of the services and law enforcement agencies of the participating countries to undertake co-operative actions against the smuggling of materials related to weapons of mass destruction. In 2006 we plan to conduct an international sea exercise in the Baltic.

The Proliferation Security Initiative, launched in 2003 in Krakow, is a strong response of the international community to challenges and threats to security posed by proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and by the fact that they might fall into the hands of terrorists.

I wish to inform you that my delegation provided the Secretariat of the CD with the text of the Polish Foreign Minister's statement on the occasion of the Krakow Initiative second anniversary requesting the CD Secretariat to publish it as an official CD document.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

Using this opportunity I wish to say a few words about the most recent events that were of utmost importance to the disarmament machinery. I assume that the outcome of the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) was not satisfactory to any of the delegations. We regret that the Conference was not able to address the most important issues – relevant to today's international security. Let me state that my country – as we said during the Conference – will firmly support the NPT regime and wishes to see it further strengthened.

Let me also assure you that we will also spare no efforts to find progress in the Conference on Disarmament. We cannot allow the multilateral disarmament bodies to stand still. Therefore, we should look for ways to overcome the stalemate. In that connection, the Foreign Minister of Poland, prof. Adam Daniel Rotfeld, when addressing the CD in March of this year proposed to establish a reflection expert group or panel to examine possible ways of creating consensus within this body. Such a panel could also reflect on the overall situation in the disarmament machinery. It could work in a similar fashion as the High-Level Panel created by the UN Secretary General. The panel – or group of experts – should focus on possible solutions, which would bring political will to advance work in the disarmament and non-proliferation area. It could also prepare relevant recommendations for a high-level meeting at which such political will would be expressed.

Mr. President, Colleagues,

Let me conclude that there is no time to waste. We should all make every effort to strengthen the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and make the CD work again. We owe it both to the past generations who created this and other multilateral disarmament bodies, as well as to the future generations who have the right to live in a more secure and peaceful world.

Thank you.