Statement of

Dr. Cezary LUSIŃSKI

Head of Delegation of the Republic of Poland

to the Conference on Disarmament

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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Mr. President,

First of all, let me congratulate you on the assumption of the post of the President of the Conference on Disarmament. I would like to assure you of Poland’s support for your efforts during this assignment, especially in respect of our Programme of Work. I also entirely subscribe to the position expressed by Ambassador Gerard Corr of Ireland on behalf of the European Union.

Poland shares the priority for negotiations of FMCT in CD as the next logical step in non-proliferation and disarmament. In our opinion the Shannon mandate could still be a good departure point for the process. FMCT would complement and reinforce the existing disarmament and non-proliferation framework. Moreover, it would be an important contribution to global nuclear security and to the prevention of the potential use of fissile material by “Non-State actors”.

Taking into account the recent outcome of the First Committee, we should treat this session as the last one to start FMCT negotiations ourselves. Previous debates of experts in various formula allowed to exchange views and discuss different, often uneasy, practical and technical issues concerning the fissile materials. They added to the process of building confidence and mutual understanding. After such long preparations we should now launch the negotiations according to our mandate.

Mr. President,

While looking forward to discuss with all CD members possible arrangements that will allow us to start substantive work on FMCT in the CD, I would also like to share with you information on other non-proliferation and disarmament activities which are conducted by my country.

Poland is co-organizing together with Norway and the US workshop on Non-Strategic Nuclear Weapons in Warsaw, on 7-8 February 2013. The academic and think-tank dimension event would bring together participants from the academia and think-tanks, the experts from the NATO countries, Russia and Sweden, as well as the representatives of the NATO International Staff.

We are active on this field. First signal was sent by Minister Sikorski and Minister Bildt of Sweden in the New York Times in 2010. Later on in 2011 Minister Sikorski published another article in The Wall Street Journal along with Minister Store of Norway. Together with Germany we have tabled a new non-paper on Non-Strategic Nuclear Weapons during the latest ministerial meeting of the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative on September 26, 2012 in New York.

This workshop seeks to advance European security and stability through informal dialogue with Russia on the benefits of information sharing, transparency, and confidence building measures regarding non-strategic nuclear weapons in Europe, including categorization and verification issues. We believe that this workshop would provide an opportunity to discuss and develop transparency ideas that could serve as a basis for future work in a variety of multilateral and bilateral fora.
Mr. President, Poland attaches great importance to the chemical disarmament and non-proliferation. Poland will hold the chairmanship of the forthcoming Third Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention, in April 2013. Poland is aware of expectations of many that the Conference will elaborate policy guidance for years to come.

Poland's chairmanship priority for the Conference process is to strengthen multilateral system of the comprehensive and universal prohibition of chemical weapons. Our common ambition should be also to begin of the consideration of the future missions for the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Poland will promote an active and broad engagement of State-Parties and the OPCW Director-General in the preparation process to provide continued political guidance and ensure balance of interests. The Review Conference process should remain inclusive and involve an active participation of states and the civil society.

The outcomes of the Review Conference process should include consensus final document and the other relevant decisions ensuring support for and effective and comprehensive implementation of all the CWC provisions. These outcomes should be discussed and implemented through the decisions of the Executive Council.

Finally, Mr. President, Poland will have the honor to host the High Level Political Meeting of the PSI endorsing states on 27-28 May 2013. Ten years have passed since the launch of the Proliferation Security Initiative on 31 May 2003, in Cracow, Poland, when with other states we have engaged ourselves in intense efforts aimed at preventing proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and strengthening international security. The upcoming 10th Anniversary of the Initiative offers us an excellent opportunity to reflect on all we have accomplished and plan for the next ten years.

The aim of the High Level Political Meeting is to express the continuing political commitment of the PSI states to the Statement of Interdiction Principles and the goal of non-proliferation. Its agenda will also encompass a review of the accomplishments of the PSI endorsing states in the non-proliferation domain. However, the most important task for the conference will be to establish the next steps that attending states intend to take, both individually and together with other PSI partners, aimed at improving counter proliferation capabilities.

Mr. President, let me express the hope that the Conference on Disarmament will resume this year its due role as a leading disarmament negotiating body.

Thank you, Mr. President