STATEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION TO THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/C.1/59/L.16)

Mr. Chairman,

1. It is an honour and pleasure to introduce, on behalf of the Delegation of Poland, a draft resolution on the implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention (A/C.1/59/L.16).

In a few weeks, the next Conference of the States Parties will be held in The Hague. The States Parties will give their guidance on the implementation of the Convention in 2005. This resolution shall contribute to a full and timely CWC implementation.

2. Since the Convention and its implementation contribute to enhancing international peace and security, the United Nations resolution on implementation of the Convention shall support and promote its object and purpose as well as its full and effective implementation. Based on this fundamental consideration and taken into account the results of the First Review Conference, Poland elaborated a new draft text of the resolution. Our basic assumption and goal was to ensure, like in last years, a consensus approval for the resolution. Consensus is crucial to provide an unequivocal support of the United Nations to the implementation of the Convention.

3. The resolution on implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention remains this year very timely. The CWC is the key element of an effective strategy in combating the proliferation of chemical weapons and their destruction. In our work on the draft we concentrated on the progress achieved in the CWC implementation since the adoption of the last year’s resolution. There have been real achievements and they are reflected in this year’s draft.

4. Let me present the text of the draft resolution and changes from the previous year. The draft reaffirms the importance of the outcome of the First Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Convention including the Political Declaration in which the States Parties reaffirm their commitment to achieving the object and purpose of the Convention and the Final Report which addressed all aspects of the Convention and made important recommendations on its continued implementation. The reference to the First Special Session was moved from the operational part to preamble part of the resolution.

A key element in building an effective implementation of the CWC is ensuring its universality. The draft resolution emphasizes the universality. It also calls upon all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention without delay. The draft acknowledges the adoption by the OPCW and progress made on the implementation of the Action Plan for Universality of the Convention.

The draft further stresses that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention is in itself an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

At the same time, the draft resolution underlines that the Convention and its implementation contribute to enhancing international peace and security, and emphasizes that its full, universal and effective implementation will contribute further to that purpose by excluding completely, for the
sake of all humankind, the possibility of the use of chemical weapons. It urges all States parties to the Convention to meet in full and on time their obligations under the Convention and to support the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in its implementation activities. It also notes with appreciation the ongoing work of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to achieve the objectives and purpose of the Convention, to ensure the full implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and co-operation among States parties. The draft further notes with appreciation the adoption by the OPCW and progress made on the implementation of the Action Plan on the Implementation of Article VII obligations of the Convention;

This year’s draft resolution confirms the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States parties to the Convention, and welcomes progress to that end. It notes that the effective application of the verification system builds confidence in compliance with the Convention by States parties, and stresses the importance of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in verifying compliance with the provisions of the Convention as well as in promoting the timely and efficient accomplishment of all its objectives;

A special attention has been given to the importance of international co-operation. The draft resolution goes beyond the previous year text and reaffirms the undertaking of the States parties to foster international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities of the States parties and the importance of that cooperation and its contribution to the promotion of the Convention as a whole;

5. In summary, the draft resolution introduced by Poland concentrates on progress in the implementation of the Convention. A special emphasis was made on maintaining importance of the First Special Conference and progress in implementing two Action Plans adopted by the States parties to the Convention, namely Plan of Action on Universality and Plan of Action on the Implementation of Article VII obligations of the Convention.

6. During extensive bilateral and two opened-ended consultations attended by more than 50 Delegations we were assured about the support for this draft and readiness of Delegations in the First Committee to join consensus on it.

7. As in previous year, Poland remains a sole sponsor of the draft resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Maintaining the sole sponsorship ensures regional and political balance and broad support for the resolution.

8. Let me express gratitude and thanks to all the Delegations participating in the extensive consultations on the new draft resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. These consultations confirmed existence of a broad political support in all regions for the implementation of the Convention in its entirety.

The agreed - and presented today - consensus draft resolution is a material expression of this support.

9. In overall, we consider that the text of this year resolution is well balanced. It provides an unequivocal support of the United Nations to the full and effective implementation of all the provisions of the Convention.

Delegation of Poland asks for the approval of the draft resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention without a vote.

Thank you Mr. Chairman