Mr. Chairman,

As I take the floor for the first time during this session of the First Committee, please allow me to express my congratulations for your election to this high office. My pleasure is even greater as Poland and the Republic of Korea are close partners in many important issues, including disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

Today's topic of the thematic debate -- disarmament machinery -- is one of greatest interest to my delegation. Poland has traditionally been involved in efforts of the international community aimed at strengthening the disarmament machinery. My country is a State Party to all disarmament treaties. Last year we announced that we will join the Mine Ban Treaty. We are party to all export control regimes. We are actively involved in developing new tools in non-proliferation and disarmament: the Proliferation Security Initiative (Krakow Initiative) and the Global Partnership against weapons of mass destruction are two best examples of our commitment to the goal of strengthening the disarmament machinery. Having said that, let me reiterate: Poland has a very keen interest in the effective functioning of the UN disarmament machinery.

We recognize that the disarmament machinery finds itself in a difficult situation. The inability of the UN Disarmament Commission to adopt its agenda and the lack of a program of work in the Conference on Disarmament are most evident examples. Failure of the NPT Review Conference to agree on its Final Document earlier this year and the omission of non-proliferation and disarmament from the Outcome Document of the UN Summit in September further erode the worrisome picture. All these negative developments within the machinery do not contribute to resolving the complex challenges in non-proliferation and disarmament.

Therefore, we should not give up our efforts in increasing the effectiveness of the machinery which is at our disposal, in bringing certain bodies back to work on substantive issues. It was for this exact reason that the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs prof. Adam Daniel Rotfeld proposed that the Secretary General establish "the group of sages", which would work on comprehensive ways of bringing in political will and allow for the break in the stalemate in such important bodies as UNDC and CD.
Mr. Chairman,

We need an effectively functioning disarmament machinery. That’s why Poland supported last year’s efforts to improve methods of work of the First Committee. Ambassador de Alba of Mexico – Chairman of the Committee at that time – has proven that we can find ways to revitalize work in this machinery. Let me stress that, at this point, the ultimate success of revitalization efforts lays in the hands of the delegations. It is up to us to make real efforts towards streamlining the work of this Committee. It is also up to Member States to implement resolutions adopted here.

Mr. Chairman,

On 1 January 2006 Poland will take over the Presidency of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Together with all of next year’s CD Presidents – Republic of Korea, Romania, Russia, Senegal and Slovakia – we have engaged in discussions on how to advance the work of the Conference throughout the 2006 session. We believe that the establishment of a common platform of cooperation between the session’s Presidents can advance us closer towards a long awaited progress on substantive issues.

As it is widely recognized – CD problems are of a political nature that can be overcome only by political decisions developed in capitals. It is my delegation’s view that we should concentrate on discussing substantive issues. Only such discussion can bring us closer to understanding which topics are ready for negotiations. We will count on, and look forward to, the cooperation of all CD members in finding ways to get back to work.

Mr. Chairman,

We all share the same responsibility to advance work in the disarmament machinery, as we all face the same threats and challenges. I hope that, despite of the worrisome setbacks in 2005, 2006 will be a year of positive developments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Thank you.