STATEMENT BY

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69TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE

THEMATIC DEBATE
ON OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

INTRODUCTION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING AND USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

NEW YORK, 24TH OCTOBER 2014
Thank you Mr. President,

I would like to assure you about Poland’s full support for your leadership of the First Committee.

Mr. President,

It is an honour and pleasure for me to introduce, on behalf of the Delegation of Poland, a draft Resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The continued leadership as a sole sponsor of the Resolution on the CWC implementation, is a Polish contribution to the world free of chemical weapons.

The United Nations Resolution on the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention underlines the exceptional role of the CWC in the area of disarmament, preventing re-emergence of chemical weapons, international cooperation and protection against chemical weapons.

This Resolution, which has been adopted without a vote for many years, is a visible expression of unequivocal support for the implementation of the CWC and the prohibition of chemical weapons.

This year again the Resolution has been discussed and submitted in an extraordinary situation as far as prohibition of chemical weapons is concerned. The accession of the Syrian Arab Republic to the CWC in 2013 enabled to achieve significant progress in elimination of its chemical weapons program. This has been an unprecedented challenge for the OPCW in its entire history and mobilized most of its resources. Despite this challenging circumstances States Parties to the CWC were able to maintain the consensual approach on this issue in The Hague. It has not been an easy task because the dynamic process of chemical disarmament in Syria is not finished yet.

Poland as a sole sponsor has faced the challenge of preserving consensus on the issue of chemical weapons in Syria in the UN General Assembly First Committee. We sought to reflect in the Resolution expectations of all partners participating in the chemical disarmament process in Syria without going beyond what has been discussed and agreed in the OPCW.

Poland is of the opinion that preserving the consensus in the UN context is of utmost importance for securing conducive political environment for the remaining work of the OPCW in Syria. Therefore, proposed paragraphs
represent the only consensus language available, which was negotiated by all States Parties to the Convention in The Hague. They take stock of successful removal of all declared chemical materials from Syria and at the same time, point out to the tasks that still need to be accomplished. The language also expresses support to the OPCW fact-finding mission in Syria and condemns use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances. The wording on chemical disarmament in Syria will be under review in the future versions of the resolution.

In the operative part the Resolution notes with concern the danger of the production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by non-state actors, including terrorists. This paragraph has been maintained from the 2013 edition of the Resolution but its validity is greater than a year ago.

The structure of the Resolution has been based on last year’s text. A few paragraphs were deleted in order to re-establish the balance present in the past versions of the document and make it more concise. Poland wishes to thank all the delegations for their cooperation in this task.

During consultations on the text, both in The Hague and in New York, we discussed several proposals to be reflected in this year’s draft. We found, however, that there is no universal support to introduce these new proposals.

During the extensive bilateral and open-ended informal consultations attended by many Delegations, we received support and willingness to join consensus on the proposed draft Resolution.

Let me express our gratitude to all the Delegations participating in our extensive consultations on this year’s draft Resolution. These consultations confirmed existence of a broad political support in all regions for the implementation of all pillars of the Convention. The draft Resolution presented today is an expression of this support.

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

Thank you.