STATEMENT BY

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THEMATIC DEBATE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me say, that Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. We also fully subscribe to the statements delivered earlier by the Philippines on behalf of the NPDI as well as by Australia on behalf of the group of 30 states. We would like to share some elements of our national reflection.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me start by reiterating the key importance that Poland attaches to the NPT in all its three pillars. Sharing the commitment of a world without nuclear weapons, we all bear responsibility to further reinforce and uphold the NPT regime - the fundamental part of the global collective peace and security architecture. This conviction was at the heart of our decision to assume the chairmanship of the 2018 NPT Preparatory Committee. During that time we spared no efforts to uphold the integrity and credibility of the Treaty; to create environment for an inclusive, mutually respectful and transparent dialogue; and to deliver practical solutions for the 2020 Review Conference, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the NPT's entry into force. We hope that progress achieved in this regard will contribute not only to the positive outcome of the 2020 Review Conference, but also to enhancing the Treaty and its further implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

The process of nuclear disarmament depends largely on regional and international security environment. We believe that positive dynamic generated in this regard on the Korean Peninsula will spill over to other pockets of instability.
We hope that further steps in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula will follow intensive talks between the United States, Republic of Korea and the DPRK this year. In this context, we welcome the announcement by the DPRK on the suspension of nuclear missile tests as well as the destruction of Punggye-ri test site. We call on the DPRK to shut down Yongbyon facilities as well.

Despite positive developments, Pyongyang’s nuclear and missile programs still pose a threat to international security and stability of the region. The lasting peace will not be achieved without the denuclearization of the DPRK in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

On the same note, we are convinced it is in our common interest to stabilize the situation in the Middle East, reduce tensions in the region and, most importantly, to prevent further proliferation of nuclear weapons. To this aim we strive to assure that Iranian nuclear program remains peaceful by encouraging Iran to fulfill all of its nuclear-related commitments under the NPT and the JCPOA - an instrument helping to verify Iran’s capabilities and actions.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland deeply believes that progress in the nuclear disarmament is not possible without creation of appropriate international security environment in existing strategic context. To this aim, we should focus our efforts on improving the geopolitical conditions as well as developing confidence and transparency building measures.

In this respect we welcome the completion of reductions by the United States and the Russian Federation under the New Start Treaty. We count on further disarmament measures after 2021.
In the same vein we call on the Russian Federation to address in a substantial and transparent way all concerns regarding its compliance with the INF Treaty. We deplore that trust in Negative Security Assurances has been damaged by the breach of the Budapest Memorandum.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland remains convinced that progressive approach based on the 2010 Action Plan remains the only realistic and valid roadmap for nuclear disarmament. In our view, only through real engagement of all states we could make real and stable progress toward nuclear disarmament. At this point let me mention a few actions that need to be undertaken towards this objective:

1. We consider the CTBT universalization and entry into force as a top priority. We reiterate our call on all States that have not yet done so, in particular those listed in Annex 2, to sign and ratify the Treaty. The early DPRK accession to this Treaty would be a god step and tangible prove of its strong resolve for denuclearization.

2. Starting negotiations on the FMCT remains of great importance for Poland. In this regard, we welcome the report of the High-Level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group and we hope it will facilitate the process of the negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament.

3. Initiatives in the nuclear disarmament verification area are also vital for the advancement of nuclear disarmament and establishing enhanced transparency and confidence. We appreciate the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on nuclear disarmament verification as well as the progress achieved so far in the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV).
Poland's commitment in these areas was proved by participation of our experts in the works of the High-Level FMCT Expert Preparatory Group, the IPNDV and UN GGE on Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

*Thank you very much for your attention.*