STATEMENT BY

MR. MARCIN KAWAŁOWSKI

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF POLAND TO THE OPCW

73RD UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST COMMITTEE
THEMATIC DEBATE ON OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

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Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, let me stress that Poland fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like also to make some additional remarks, particularly important for my capital.

In the debate on other weapons of mass destruction Poland traditionally attaches great attention to the issues related to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). We remain strongly committed to the idea of the world free of chemical weapons and support efforts of the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). We are looking forward to the forthcoming CWC Review Conference and stand ready to actively and constructively contribute to its final, hopefully successful, result.

Such support and commitment of international community are even more important this year taking into account the fundamental challenges we face today for the Convention.

With the continuous use of chemical weapons around the world in recent months, in Syria, Iraq, Malaysia and the United Kingdom, the CWC bedrock – complete prohibition of chemical weapons – is fundamentally challenged. It raises questions on the CWC integrity and the OPCW credibility; in broader sense – questions on their future. Consensus has be broken at the OPCW and we remain still very remote from rebuilding it.

This situation cannot be, however, excuse for inaction. Such an understanding stood clearly behind the initiative of many States Parties, including Poland, across all regions, to convey the special session of the CWC Conference of States Parties as well as behind the adoption of the decision addressing the threat from chemical weapons use in a comprehensive manner. This is a clear message for perpetrators of
chemical weapons use: there is no tolerance of international community for their unacceptable acts, those responsible will be held to account.

In this demanding context Poland, as in the previous years, introduces in the United Nations General Assembly Draft Resolution on the CWC Implementation. This has been clearly identified as a priority, for the Polish Delegation at this UNGA session, by the President of the Republic of Poland H.E. Andrzej Duda during the UN Security Council thematic debate on nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction on September 26.

The key goal of the resolution is to provide strong and unambiguous support of the whole international community for the CWC integrity and the OPCW role and efforts. This is the only way to ensure credibility of the Organization in the face of current and future threats and challenges, in particular – to uphold fundamental norms envisaged by the Convention. This is a good opportunity to express support for the OPCW Director General and his continuous efforts to strengthen the chemical non-proliferation and disarmament regime in these demanding circumstances.

For that aim Poland conducted open and transparent process with regard to the resolution, starting with the early broad consultations in The Hague and follow-up two rounds of discussions in New York. Let me express our gratitude to all the Distinguished Delegations for participation in these discussions.

This year Poland was confronted with fundamentally divergent views of the Member States that were contradictive and mutually excluding. Finding middle ground proved to be even more challenging than in the past. Poland, as a sole sponsor, has done its utmost to provide both factual and actual text. Building upon the ongoing works at the OPCW, we reflected in a balanced manner issues critical for the CWC
implementation but also remain frank when it comes to the key challenge to the Convention.

Poland hopes that its efforts will be taken into account and for this very reason text of the resolution will be accepted by this esteemed assembly.

Thank you.