STATEMENT BY

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me congratulate you on the assumption of the Chairmanship of the First Committee for the 74th session of the UN General Assembly. We wish you every success in fulfilling this important function. You can be assured of full support and cooperation of the Delegation of Poland.

Poland fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Let me highlight several issues in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

In our view, what makes this First Committee session more important than the previous ones, is a necessity to confront and counter, also on international fora, rising tensions on the global stage. Deepening differences should not refrain us from seeking common grounds and, if possible solutions. Poland is ready to engage constructively in dialogues with all partners aiming at easing tensions.

It goes without saying that our priority for the nearest future is absolutely clear. Since its entry into force in 1970, the NPT has been the cornerstone of the global regime for nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament and as such the essential part of the modern collective security system. Current international geopolitical challenges, which have not decreased since last year, underline an important role of the Treaty and necessity to uphold and strengthen it. The NPT helps to ease tensions and build confidence between states. Therefore we – the international community - have to do our utmost to deliver at the 10th Review Conference of the Treaty. Being the Chair of the Main Committee II of the Review Conference we feel special responsibility to succeed in this demanding task.
Poland has always been committed to the objectives of the NPT. This approach was highlighted inter alia by our chairmanship of the 2018 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee. During the whole review cycle we spared no efforts to: 1) uphold the integrity and credibility of the Treaty; 2) create environment for an all-inclusive, mutually respectful and transparent dialogue; 3) deliver practical solutions within our portfolio for the 2020 Review Conference, which will mark the 50th anniversary of the NPT’s entry into force, 4) consult with partners on every possible outstanding issue.

Having all that in mind, stand ready to support the Argentinian President of the Review Conference, and assure him of our full cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite all efforts undertaken over many years, entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) still remains a challenge. This year New York hosted already 10th Article XIV Conference to facilitate getting the Treaty into life. Thanks to diplomatic efforts of two facilitators in Vienna - Germany and Algeria, the Conference adopted its Final Declaration to pave the way for further action to accomplish entering the CTBT into force in the foreseeable future.

The arms control global system has unfortunately continued to deteriorate. It has been exemplified by the situation of the INF Treaty. Erosion of this significant element of the European security architecture constitutes yet another challenge for our security.

Russian Federation bears sole responsibility for the demise of the Treaty. We regret that authorities in Moscow have shown no willingness and taken no demonstrable steps to ensure implementation of the INF Treaty in an effective, verifiable and transparent manner.
We are convinced that a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula can only be achieved through peaceful means. Therefore, we welcomed the diplomatic process started in Singapore, continued in Hanoi and Panmunjom. Regardless of promising declarations, we note that there is little progress done so far by the DPRK to take visible steps necessary towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation and the abandonment of all other WMD programmes. In this context we call upon the DPRK to comply fully with all UN Security Council`s resolutions, return to full compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) including IAEA Safeguards system as well as sign and ratify the CTBT and CWC without further delay.

On another regional issue of the global security range, we took note with concern of yet another step taken by Iran, namely diminishing its obligations under the JCPOA, highlighted by the recent report of the IAEA. Poland, likewise the European Union, supports the JCOPA as an important agreement in the sphere of curbing the nuclear proliferation, however, only full compliance of the accord by Iran can guarantee its comprehensive implementation.

Poland supports progressive approach to nuclear disarmament centered on the NPT and the system of relevant international institutions and agreements. In this context we welcome new initiatives aimed at invigorating the disarmament process based on realistic approach. We also continue to trust in the commencement of the negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament on the fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT). We still consider the High-level group report of 2018 as a good basis for future negotiations and hope it will facilitate the process leading to the start of the negotiations of the Treaty.
Proliferation of ballistic missiles, especially those capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction, remains a serious challenge to international peace and security. In 2017-2018 Poland chaired the work of the Hague Code of Conduct against ballistic missile proliferation (HCoC), which is the major instrument of transparency and confidence building measures. After leaving the Troika of the Code, we remain ready in sharing our experience with the current Norwegian Chair.

Mr. Chairman,

As in previous years, Poland is going to introduce in the United Nations General Assembly Draft Resolution on the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). We remain convinced that our efforts in this area are nowadays more important than ever. Despite undeniable successes in curbing the proliferation of chemical weapons, the threats and challenges related to their use remain real and cannot be neglected.

Poland is deeply concerned that despite prohibition, chemical weapons have been used around the world in recent years: in Iraq, Malaysia, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. We strongly condemn these acts and demand that the perpetrators are held accountable. Against this background, the General Assembly has to uphold a strong, united and unambiguous signal of support of the whole international community for the CWC integrity and the OPCW’s role. We need to demonstrate unity of purpose in striving for the world free of chemical weapons. We need to further enhance the implementation of the CWC and strengthen the Organization. This is the only way to defend against chemical weapons challenges and threats as well as to deter any future State and Non-State perpetrators. The time to act together is now.
Mr. Chairman,

Emerging and disruptive technologies enable new methods and means of warfare, raising fundamental questions that cut across traditional concepts of international relations and international law. The acceleration of technological development and proliferation of new systems are challenging multilateral regulatory frameworks and inter-governmental processes. From a peace and security perspective, there are concerns about the ability of new weapons to destabilize security relations and increase unpredictability. This might be the case for example with hypersonic weapons or anti-satellite systems. There are concerns over the potential of new technologies to be used to conduct malicious activities, that fall short of traditional thresholds for use of armed force, as illustrated by recent examples of hybrid warfare. Due to the rapidly evolving nature of technology-related challenges, the legally binding instruments might not provide us with adequate solutions. We should rather look for more pragmatic solutions, starting with increased transparency and confidence building measures.

As responsible state that upholds the international rules-based order, Poland recognizes its role in safeguarding the benefits of a free, open, and secure cyberspace for future generations. UN member states have increasingly coalesced around a Framework of Responsible State Behavior in Cyberspace. We strongly support advancing greater accountability of states in cyberspace to discourage irresponsible behavior.
Mr. Chairman,

Poland attaches great importance to the work conducted within the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). This is why Poland took responsibility in chairing this year the work of Amended Protocol II within the CCW. We also believe that this Convention remains the most appropriate forum to examine new developments in weapons technologies. We highly appreciate the work carried out in 2019 by the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), including adoption of its report.

As holders of the non-permanent seat in the Security Council for 2018 and 2019 we continuously promote responsible export policies of small arms and light weapons (SALW) as well as physical security and stockpile management of SALW. Another field of our commitment and engagement is the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. Poland perceives the convention as an important instrument of International Humanitarian Law.

Poland, long before becoming the State Party to the Convention in 2012, had been delivering assistance to post-conflict recovery areas and contributing to alleviate the humanitarian problems caused by unexploded ordnance and landmines, being engaged in missions abroad particularly under the United Nations and the European Union auspices.

Poland highly appreciates the preparatory work carried out by the Norwegian Presidency and the draft outcome documents presented to States Parties, namely the Oslo Action Plan, the Oslo Declaration on a Mine-Free World and the Review of the operation and status of the Convention.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.