STATEMENT BY

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74TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST COMMITTEE
THEMATIC DEBATE ON OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

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Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Poland fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the EU. I will make some additional remarks in our national capacity.

In this thematic debate Poland traditionally attaches great attention to the issues related to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). We remain committed to the core mission of the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and continuously support its efforts.

With the use of chemical weapons around the world, the CWC bedrock – complete prohibition of chemical weapons – is challenged. It raises questions on the CWC integrity and the OPCW credibility and on their future. Consensus has been broken at the OPCW and we remain still very remote from rebuilding it.

The last year CWC Review Conference confirmed this perception: despite broad consultations and best efforts the OPCW was not provided with united assessment of its activities over recent years and with an unambiguous guidance on its development.

This negative environment cannot be excuse for inaction. The OPCW has to be able to perform its core functions and adapt to changing security environment. For this reason, Poland supports the OPCW efforts to implement the comprehensive decision addressing the threat from chemical weapons use of June last year. This is a message for perpetrators of chemical weapons use that their unacceptable acts are not be tolerated and that they will be held to account.

In this context Poland, as in the previous years, introduces in the United Nations General Assembly Draft Resolution on the CWC Implementation.

The key goal of the resolution is to provide strong and clear support of international community for the CWC and the OPCW.

Poland conducted open, inclusive and transparent process in this regard, in The Hague and in New York. Thank you to all the Distinguished Delegations for their engagement.

This year Poland was confronted again with fundamentally divergent views that were contradictory and mutually excluding. Poland, as a sole sponsor, has been doing its utmost to provide factual and actual text. Building upon the works at the OPCW, we reflected in a balanced manner issues critical for the CWC implementation but remain frank when it comes to the key challenges to the Convention.
Poland hopes that text of the resolution will be accepted by this esteemed assembly.

Thank you.