STATEMENT BY

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74TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST COMMITTEE
THEMATIC DEBATE ON REGIONAL DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY

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Mr. Chairman,

Poland aims at strengthening and enhancement of the existing arms control and CBMs arrangements. Acting in a constructive way, Poland proposed modernization of the Vienna Document in the area concerning risk reduction but we believe that its modernization should cover also increased transparency over certain military activities; transparency regarding no-notice military activities and improving verification provisions.

To address the issue of increased military activity in our region, in 2017 Poland launched the initiative of voluntary reporting on military exercises in the OSCE’s Forum for Security Cooperation. Furthermore, under Chapter X of the Vienna Document, Poland concluded two bilateral agreements on military transparency with Ukraine and Belarus providing basis for yearly, mutual inspection visits.

Mr. Chairman,

The conflict in and around Ukraine has serious impact on the security situation in our region. Russia’s continued aggression against Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity represents a direct threat to international peace and security. The illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 was an act of aggression and a flagrant violation of the international law. It has undermined the core principles of the international law, including the one to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of any state. Poland – one of the largest donors to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, contributing monitors, experts as well as financial support – strongly supports the international efforts, including those of the OSCE and the Normandy format, aimed at finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict in and around Ukraine. We underline that the full implementation of the Minsk agreements remains the basis for a sustainable political solution.

Distinguished delegates,

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. We remain of the strong view that complete denuclearization of the DPRK must remain a top priority for the entire international community. Recent ballistic missiles launches undermine trust and deteriorate security environment on the Korean Peninsula and in the region. In this context we call upon the DPRK to comply fully with all UN Security Council’s resolutions, return to full compliance
with the NPT, including IAEA Safeguards system, as well as to sign and ratify the CTBT and CWC without further delay. We are ready to provide substantial expert-kind contribution once the verification process of the DPRK’s nuclear installation will be feasible.

On a similar note, we are convinced it is in our common interest to stabilize the situation in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, reduce tensions in the region and, most importantly, to prevent further proliferation of nuclear weapons. Only full compliance by Iran with the JCPOA can guarantee its comprehensive implementation.

*Thank you.*