STATEMENT BY

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74TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST COMMITTEE
THEMATIC DEBATE ON DISARMAMENT MACHINERY

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Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

2019 is a right moment to look back at the history disarmament efforts. One hundred years ago the League of Nations was established. We can of course quarrel to what extend it was a successful project but one thing is undeniable – it has laid first ground for the future UN and arrangements on disarmament. Malicious ideologies and hegemonic policies overtook peaceful diplomacy and international order shortly after, but what lessons can we learn from those times now?

In the ever-changing international security environment we need to make every effort to build on solid, institutional structures and on sound international legal regime. We have at our disposal a variety of instruments, including UN bodies, wide range of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation regimes, International Humanitarian Law, or strong engagement of civil society. What we lack is the feeling of stability. We need to ensure that we make full use of the UN disarmament machinery and that all activities within the disarmament and non-proliferation area are based on the respect for legal commitments.

Poland believes in the potential of the Conference on Disarmament. We hope that the session next year will pave the way for commencement of negotiations towards new international legal instruments. Conference on Disarmament is not, however, *sui generis* international body that can generate treaties while being disconnected from the external world. The CD is an instrument in the hands of its Members and – as such – depends on their political will and mutual trust.

Similarly as we need to modernize working methods of the CD, we believe we should do so with respect to the UNDC. Three weeks of deliberations with no tangible results cannot be taken for granted anymore, provided financial and time constraints. Therefore, perhaps we need to be open for a discussion on shortening its proceedings and enhancing the presence of the leading disarmament and non-proliferation think-tanks and civil society in order to explore innovative solutions for decades-old problems.

To conclude, *Mr. Chairman*, let me say a few words on the First Committee.

This is the leading forum for presentation and explanation of our positions on wide array of issues. Having roughly one month at our disposal we should be able also to seek more concrete solutions and to generate new ideas in disarmament. The structure of work of the First Committee is clear but what makes us concerned is the ongoing proliferation of new documents while there is no analysis of the relevance of the existing ones. It is manageable now but will it be endurable in the future? We, therefore, support the idea of extending the cycle of adoption of certain resolutions.

*I thank you, Mr. Chair.*