Statement by

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to the United Nations Office

and International Organizations in Vienna

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Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Mr. Chairman,

Poland fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Allow me to add couple of remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me reiterate that Poland is highly attached to strengthening of the international non-proliferation regime as it fundamentally contributes to international peace, stability and security. Our record in this regard is strong. For many years Poland has been actively involved in combating proliferation risks. Our role in the current NPT review process, last year’s Chairmanship of the Hague Code of Conduct against proliferation of the ballistic missiles (HCoC) and active support for the Proliferation Security Initiative is the best testimony in this respect. Moreover, it clearly demonstrates that mutually linked proliferation of missile and nuclear technologies remain high on our security radar.

Mr. Chairman,

The world continues to face major proliferation challenges. Despite encouraging diplomatic developments in recent months, DPRK’s nuclear and ballistic capabilities remain the main point of concern for the global non-proliferation regime. The development of the DPRK’s illegal nuclear and ballistic missile programmes continue to challenge the NPT as well as the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. The DPRK must comply with its international obligations, as expressed in numerous UN Security Council Resolutions, and abandon its nuclear capabilities, ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction programmes in complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

Poland remains attached to the idea of the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems in the Middle East, in accordance with the 1995 decision of the NPT Review and Extension Conference. We believe that the only sustainable way forward to agree on the arrangements for a meaningful conference is through a dialogue and confidence building among all stakeholders, and in particular all States of the region.
I am deeply convinced that it is in our common interest to stabilize the situation in the Middle East, reduce tensions in the region and, most importantly, to prevent further proliferation of nuclear weapons. Therefore we support all initiatives, which guarantee that Iranian nuclear program remains peaceful. To achieve this, Iran must continue to fulfill all of its nuclear-related commitments under the NPT as well as the JCPOA. In this regard we welcome the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) efforts to strictly monitor and verify Iran’s commitments.

Mr. Chairman,

On a broader scale, Poland believes that strong verification regimes contribute to building trust, increasing confidence and transparency. The role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in securing non-proliferation obligations under art. III of the NPT is indispensable for the credibility of the Treaty. The Comprehensive Safeguard Agreements (CSA) with innovative approach of State-level concept, as well as the Additional Protocol, constitute solid verification standards. We call on all States, who have yet not done so, to conclude, sign and ratify the Additional Protocol without delay.

Poland is strongly committed to uphold the highest standards of export controls and strives for optimal transparency in this field. Good and effective export controls mechanism should be adhered to by all countries involved in nuclear trade for peaceful purposes, in order to maintain the appropriate level of trustworthy control of nuclear and dual use goods and technologies. We encourage all countries to adhere to the export control guidelines of the Zangger Committee and Nuclear Supplier’s Group (NSG). We are confident that the incoming NSG plenary in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, confirms vital role of this Group in non-proliferation system.

Mr. Chairman,

We firmly believe that the pillar of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons remain absolutely crucial for the effective implementation of the NPT. We will continue to do our utmost to be reliable part of this process.

Thank you for your attention.