STATEMENT BY

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REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-
PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

CLUSTER 3

NEW YORK, 6TH MAY 2019
Mr. Chairman,

Poland fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union on issues related to Cluster 3. Allow me to add couple of remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland respects the inalienable right of States Parties to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This prerogative is enshrined in the Article IV of the NPT and has to be exercised in conformity with the non-proliferation commitments.

Fully aware of its obligations under the Treaty, Poland adopted in 2014 nuclear power programme which envisages construction of two nuclear power plants. Main goals of the programme are threefold: 1) to diversify electricity generation structure; 2) to ensure security of energy supply; and 3) to reduce impact of energy sector on environment, especially emissions of CO2 and other air pollutants. The Polish nuclear power programme is currently being updated in line with the Polish Energy Policy till 2040. At this stage we pledge full transparency with regard to future activities in the domain of nuclear energy.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland is committed to preserving the highest standards of nuclear security in the development of the nuclear power programme as well as in other peaceful applications of nuclear energy. Since nuclear security primary remains the responsibility of States, we believe that commitment to strengthening it nationally is of utmost importance. Over the years we have been working hard to make sure that our existing and future facilities meet appropriate international standards.

Actions speak lauder than words, therefore in September 2016 the last part of highly-enriched uranium that was used in our research reactor was removed from the Polish territory. Poland has become a country that uses only low-enriched uranium (LEU) as a fuel for its research reactor. It could not have been possible without international cooperation and our participation in the Global Threat Reduction Initiative.
The successful conversion of the research reactor and removal of a spent HEU fuel directly contributed to improving the nuclear security in Poland and in the region. We will continue to support efforts in order to minimize the use of highly-enriched uranium in civilian applications. Moreover, in 2016 Poland hosted International Physical Protection Advisory Service of International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure that Polish nuclear security framework meet the highest international standards.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland recognizes and appreciates the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency as the organization that encourages responsible development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology. IAEA’s technical cooperation programmes contribute directly to strengthening of nuclear safety and security, promoting sustainable energy as well as supporting development of nuclear infrastructure. Poland encourages the IAEA to continue its useful approach and will be supporting Agency in this endeavor. We reiterate the need of ensuring the IAEA adequate technical, financial and human resources to effectively address nuclear security challenges.

Thank you for your attention.