

Conference on Disarmament High - Level Segment
Statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Zbigniew Rau
Geneva, 22 February 2021

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the invitation. I am very glad to take the floor.

Let me share with you a few points, important from the Polish perspective.

To begin with, COVID-19 pandemic showed us how important it is to act together.

Shared responsibility and solidarity are also crucial when it comes to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

We therefore believe that the activity of the Conference on Disarmament - which has stalled since 1990s, mostly due to the lack of political will - needs to get a new boost. Its **agenda should follow rapid technological progress, especially in artificial intelligence, autonomous systems or cyber capabilities.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The extension of the New Start Treaty contributes to maintaining strategic stability between the United States and the Russian Federation.

Still, we believe that the parties should conclude **a broader follow-on agreement, which shall cover all nuclear weapons, including non-strategic nuclear weapons and new types of nuclear armaments.**

We hope that incoming Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference would translate into further progress in the nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Poland, as the Chair of the Main Committee Two, will do its utmost to contribute to a positive outcome of the Conference.

Mr. President,

A key question on the diplomatic agenda is the Iranian nuclear program. We express full support for the International Atomic Energy Agency verification activities.

We believe the interested parties will find a solution to the issue of the compliance with Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Poland, as a current member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, is **highly interested in limiting nuclear proliferation worldwide.**

In this context, we must not lose sight of **the nuclear threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.** We should aim at its denuclearization.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ever since the Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force we have made great progress in our efforts to free the world from this inhumane tool.

Still, the chemical attacks in Syria or the poisoning of Alexei Navalny in Russia are very disturbing developments.

The strong support for our UN General Assembly Resolution on the implementation of the Convention shows that the international community shares our concerns.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Poland spares no efforts in non-proliferation and arms control. We encourage you to join us to keep it that way.

Thank you.