STATEMENT BY

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me congratulate you on the assumption of this important function. Wishing you further successes, rest assured of full support and cooperation of this Delegation. Poland fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Let me highlight some issues in national capacity.

It is already more than one year as we have been struggling against the global pandemic and have to deal with its broad implications, including those of geopolitical nature. These demanding circumstances continue to affect our overall efforts on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation (ADN).

In this context, I would like to reiterate hope that the situation would allow to conduct the NPT Review Conference at the earliest possible date. NPT constitutes the cornerstone of the global regime for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and remains the essential part of the modern collective security system. Facing current global and regional challenges, we are obliged – as the international community – to do our utmost to strengthen, universalize and implement the provisions of the Treaty. This determines Poland’s efforts as the member of the NPT Bureau and the Chair of the Main Committee Two with a view to achieve the successful outcome of the Conference. As demonstrated by Poland’s membership in the IAEA Board of Governors this stands also behind Polish support for the efforts of the IAEA.

Poland remains concerned about state of the arms control global system. Today, the New START Treaty remains the only non-conventional arms control mechanism in place after the demise of the INF due to its long-lasting non-compliance by the Russian Federation. Through this prism we regard the
extension of the New START Treaty as a positive step. It shall contribute to maintaining strategic stability between the United States and the Russian Federation and should lead to a broader follow-on agreement covering all nuclear weapons, including non-strategic ones, and their new types as well as – to increased effectiveness of the verification mechanisms. The ongoing bilateral US-Russia Strategic Stability Dialogue should lay the ground for future talks in this regard. We are in favor of extending the dialogue to include China.

Furthermore, the international community has still been facing security threats evolving in many regions of the world. Complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains an absolute imperative and priority. We are convinced that a lasting peace on the Korean peninsula can only be achieved through peaceful means. Therefore, we call upon DPRK to engage in denuclearization talks, to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, to immediately cease all related activities, to comply fully with all UN Security Council’s resolution, to return to full compliance with the NPT, including IAEA Safeguards system, and to sign and ratify the CTBT and CWC without further delay.

On another regional issue of the global security range, we note with concern steps taken by Iran violating its obligations under the JCPOA, highlighted by the IAEA reports. Exceeding uranium enrichment and stocks significantly above JCPOA limits and producing uranium metal make it impossible to be assured about the exclusively peaceful nature of Iranian nuclear programme. We hope Iran will return to JCPOA negotiations in Vienna without any further delay and that parties will finally reach consensus on the JCPOA reactivation.
Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

The re-emergence of chemical weapons remains a serious threat to international peace and security. Poland is deeply concerned that despite prohibition, well-rooted in international law, chemical weapons have been used many times in recent years: in Iraq, Malaysia, Syria, Russia and on the territory of the United Kingdom. As the current member of the OPCW Executive Council Poland persistently repeats – any use of chemical weapons must be properly investigated and the perpetrators must be held accountable. Currently, it is a clear obligation for the whole international community to convey a strong and unambiguous message of support for the CWC and the OPCW’s leading role. This year’s draft resolution on the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Poland is traditionally introducing in this Committee, offers an opportunity to do that.

Mr. Chairman,

Briefly referring to other issues to be elaborated upon in further debates, Poland attaches great importance to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, as well as to the area of enhancing control of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (at the same time facilitating the adoption, on behalf of the EU, this year’s draft resolution on Assistance in mine action).

Last but not least, let me stress that Poland is a firm advocate of a free, open, stable and secure cyberspace. We believe that international law fully applies to all activities in cyberspace. As the international community, we have all
made a strong political commitment by agreeing in 2015 GGE final report on the 11 cyber norms of responsible behaviour of States, confirmed by adoption of OEWG and GGE reports this year. We, therefore, call on all actors to stop malicious activity in cyberspace. Poland is an active participant in the UN processes, including OEWG, and strongly promotes Program of Action initiative which should create a sustainable platform for achieving concrete results by developing confidence measures, sharing best practices and addressing the needs of states through supporting capacity building.

To conclude, we strongly believe that our – again partially hybrid – deliberations will bring important results. It should give us an impetus to the overall ADN efforts, unchangeable paradigm of the global security architecture.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.