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*STATEMENT BY*

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***TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE***  
***AND CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IN GENEVA***

**71<sup>ST</sup> UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**FIRST COMMITTEE**  
**THEMATIC DEBATE ON DISARMAMENT MACHINERY**

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*Mr. Chairman,*

Poland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. Let me, however, provide you in addition with several remarks in my national capacity.

Poland is very concerned of the future of disarmament and non-proliferation processes. In fact, the international community has a solid basis for disarmament, with the General Assembly's First Committee, the UN Disarmament Commission and the Conference of Disarmament as the core and complementary elements of this system.

Nevertheless, despite all the achievements in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation that have been done within the past half of century, we have to state that this record is uneven and many issues still remain unsolved.

What we face now is still raising and a broad interest among the states and the public opinion to make further steps in disarmament. There is a need to break the long-lasting stalemate. It was very visible during this year session of the Conference of Disarmament. Also some other, recent political phenomenon is a good evidence of this broad expectation.

Therefore, a question occurs, how to address actual challenges and how to adjust the UN disarmament machinery to the political realities. From our perspective one thing is fundamental. The disarmament machinery must remain a system, which is: logic, consistent, based on realistic premises and well settled in the international legal regime. Certainly, it should be able to react quicker and more efficiently as well.

The geopolitical situation has evolved significantly since the current system was established. It is important premise which needs to be taken into consideration while starting debate on improvement of disarmament machinery. The past assumptions are reflected by some deficiencies in the existing mechanism. What we need is a constant and fruitful expert debating forum on disarmament and non-proliferation, which would produce food for thoughts and for action in the Conference of Disarmament. We have to state in this context, with much of regret, that the mandate of the UN Disarmament Commission has not been efficiently fulfilling. An enhancement of cooperation between disarmament centers in New York, Vienna and Geneva is an element of the utmost importance.

But how to start a new opening having in mind that we have reached really critical moment. How to launch another stage of disarmament process without risk of undermining all the landmarks of its heritage?

First of all, one has to acknowledge the primacy of our common value which is international peace and collective security based on international law. The second step - as a precondition for commencement of an objective disarmament debate - would be to recognize the problems and to formulate the most relevant and "ready to use" topics, free of political or even sometimes emotional aspects.

Some of them as Non-Proliferation Treaty regime and resolution 1540 need to be further strengthen, other as Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty still wait to come into force or as Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty to be finally negotiated.

These steps, however, need to be accompanied by real efforts aiming at resolving regional conflicts and tensions. Only such parallel processes can lead us to more promising results.

*Mr. Chairman,*

The Conference of Disarmament is the only disarmament negotiating body gathering globally the most important actors. It has all necessary incentives for carrying out successfully the international negotiations. And the CD has proven it many times in the past. Nevertheless, it needs, as we see it, some adjustments in order to respond effectively to the new challenges.

The role of the CD Presidency should be even more strengthened. From this year experience, four-weeks period of chairing the work of this Conference is far not enough to organize, formulate, consult and ultimately realize its program. During the Poland's chairmanship, we saw the potential for adoption of the CD Program of Work and we were relatively close to this end. Having more time it would be at least possible to better pave the way for the future presidencies. Also the issue of representation in the CD needs our further and constant reflection.

*Mr. Chairman,*

To conclude, it is indispensable to stress that any efforts aiming at reviving disarmament machinery should result from the political will of states, all states. There are no other entities that states, who can politically decide upon direction of disarmament. We have to build together on the existing foundations, deeply rooted in the international law, with commonly shared principles. What is more important, that the political *rapprochement* and progress made in disarmament would be also advantageous in suppressing the current military conflicts.

It is very difficult task, but we are absolutely convinced that we can do it together, if we want to do it. Let me assure you, Mr. Chairman, that Poland stands ready to contribute to this end.

*Thank you for your attention.*