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**2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY
ON NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT)**

GENERAL DEBATE

NEW YORK, 28TH APRIL 2015

Madam President,

Poland would like to express its deep sorrow after the catastrophic earthquake in Nepal – we send the Government and People of Nepal our sincere condolences and assure them about our assistance and support.

At the outset let me congratulate you, Ambassador Feroukhi, on your appointment as the President of the NPT Review Conference. I wish to assure you of the Polish Delegation's support and cooperation in the fulfilment of your mandate.

Poland fully associates itself with the statement to be delivered later today by the High Representative Mogherini on behalf of the European Union.

Madam President,

The consensus achieved at the 2010 Review Conference was a remarkable proof of the effectiveness of multilateral diplomacy in one of the most vulnerable areas of international relations. Back then, while taking the floor, many delegations, including my own, emphasized that failure was not an option.

The Action Plan adopted in 2010 was the best possible outcome. It remains an important point of reference.

Five years later, security circumstances changed severely, making this Conference even more important; achieving a substantial consensus is highly desirable.

So yet again we can reiterate: “failure is not an option”.

NPT must remain a cornerstone of the international system of nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Treaty is necessary to keep the right course towards a nuclear disarmament. It is also essential to maintain the efforts towards nuclear non-proliferation, as well to assure a peaceful access to nuclear energy.

There are no shortcuts, no simple solutions, and no alternatives to this forum.

The full implementation of the NPT requires efforts of all states. Particularly, regarding nuclear disarmament. The discussion on that topic must be inclusive and pragmatic.

It needs to take into account the central role of the NPT.

It also has to respect security concerns, well-established multilateral security arrangements as well as demonstrable commitment of all states, particularly some of the Nuclear Weapons States.

Therefore, any agreed decisions should strengthen the framework enabling the fulfilment of the commitments under Article VI of the NPT.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the last five years Poland remained actively involved in various actions supporting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Although they are all presented in detail in the national report on NPT, I would like to highlight the most important ones.

Poland is a Central European state that was the victim of two horrendous ideologies in the 20th century, namely Nazism and Communism. Hence, the security of the European continent is of paramount importance for my country. This is why we proposed a set of ideas and concepts aiming at increasing the transparency of non-strategic nuclear weapons in Europe, eventually hoping for their total elimination.

Thus, it is deeply regrettable that there is no progress in the debate on transparency and confidence building measures of non-strategic nuclear weapons in Europe, nor the will to include this category of weapons into future reduction talks. In this context, we would like to support the calls made by President Obama during his Berlin's speech in June 2013.

Instead, we witness actions that are in contradiction with the spirit and the letter of international commitments in the sphere of nuclear weapons. In this context, we strongly condemn the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity and the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. These actions are in clear breach of the UN Charter, of the Helsinki Final Act, as well as of Russia's commitments to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the light of the Budapest Memorandum.

This is **not** how we would like to discuss the state of European security a few days before the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

Madam President,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to draw your attention to the proposals presented by the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative, a cross-regional group where Poland is an active member among twelve other countries. We hope that NPDI's suggestions and ideas will contribute to the success of this Review Conference.

Poland stands ready in supporting the positive outcome of this Conference, taking into account our involvement in initiatives such as the Nuclear Security Summit and the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification. We view them as valuable elements of the ongoing discussion.

Poland takes note of the ongoing debate on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. Our position will be reflected later in the statement delivered by Australia on behalf of the group of states.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my concluding remarks, allow me to highlight a couple of important elements that could contribute to a successful outcome:

The Review Conference should have a carefully balanced approach to the three pillars of the Treaty.

The Final Document of 2010 (including the Action Plan) requires a thorough examination in terms of what has been achieved and what needs further improvements. The Action Plan should be considered as a roadmap that could bring us closer to a world without nuclear weapons. This is our common goal. Poland, as a responsible member of the UN community, ready to take its duties as a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 2018-2019, remains committed to this goal and the objectives of the NPT Treaty.

Madam President,

The NPT regime has to be preserved. At the same time, it needs to be strengthened in order to pave the way for its full implementation. The next four weeks should be focused on accomplishing that goal.

Thank you.