



OPCW

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POLAND

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARGARETA KASSANGANA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND TO THE
OPCW AT THE FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL
WEAPONS CONVENTION
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 11**

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. In addition, let me make a few points in my national capacity.

First of all, I wish to express Poland's full appreciation of your tremendous efforts and personal engagement, H.E. Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast, to ensure a positive outcome of the Fifth Review Conference.

Our thanks go also to the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, H.E. Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo of Mexico, who played a very important role in our proceedings, and who made great use of all his diplomatic skills, as well as to all Friends of the Chairperson, who offered their best services and steered the work of individual, thematic groups, trying to move us closer to a consensual outcome document.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the staff of the Technical Secretariat for facilitating our work throughout the Conference.

Like many others in this hall, Poland is also disappointed that despite commendable efforts, intense negotiations undertaken in the course of this week have not brought expected results. We regret that it has not been possible to achieve consensus on an outcome document that would strengthen the Convention and offer guidance for the Organisation for the years to come.

The immediate lesson than might be drawn from the Fifth Review Conference is that it was a lost opportunity. It is especially true, because the OPCW is at a critical juncture, with the shortly expected destruction of the last declared stockpiles of chemical weapons, that it was the best moment not only to take stock of the functioning of the Convention, but also to make some future oriented recommendations regarding the work of the OPCW.



Not having an outcome document for the second time in a row looks like a worrying trend. The States Parties might want to carefully consider how to avoid similar situations in the future, while maintaining transparency, inclusiveness, and ownership of the whole review process.

We have come a long way from agreeing the Chemical Weapons Convention to advancing towards its goal and purpose. We have done a lot, but our work needs to continue. We should not spare efforts to further strengthen the chemical weapons non-proliferation regime, to prevent impunity for the use, and address all threats related to chemical weapons.

Like most of the representatives of the States Parties, also my delegation has heavily engaged into work towards a tangible result of this conference. First in the course of the work of the Open-Ended Working Group, and then during the Review Conference itself. We did it in good faith and constructively. We pledge to continue to promote the Convention and its implementation if possible, also by building on the positive elements of the Fifth Review Conference.

I would kindly ask to consider this statement as an official-series document of the Fifth Review Conference and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.

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