



OPCW

Executive Council

Eighty-First Session
15 – 18 and 23 March 2016

EC-81/NAT.15
15 March 2016
ENGLISH only

POLAND

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR JAN BORKOWSKI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF POLAND TO THE OPCW
AT THE EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

At the outset of my intervention I would like to stress that Poland fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

The verification mechanism rooted in the Chemical Weapons Convention is based on mutual confidence, which also ensures the credibility and sustainability of chemical disarmament. In this context we share the concern regarding inconsistencies and gaps that were identified by the Technical Secretariat in the declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic. We urge the Syrian Arab Republic to intensify the cooperation with the Technical Secretariat to fully clarify outstanding issues and build confidence that Syrian chemical weapons programme has been fully and irreversibly dismantled. Poland also supports the appropriate decision taken by the Executive Council in that regard.

The deteriorating security situation in Northern Africa, due to activities of non-State actors, makes the scenario of use of chemical weapons or misuse of toxic chemicals by terrorists more plausible. Therefore Poland welcomes the process initiated by the Director-General in response to the request of the Libyan National Authority and will support swift action in order to minimise the chemical threat.

This situation once again demonstrates that the threat of use of chemical weapons by non-State actors is not illusory. Albeit the OPCW is not anti-terrorism organisation Poland believes it has the means to prevent the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances, including terrorists, and to respond in such a scenario. We welcome the work conducted within the sub-working group of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism under the able chairmanship of H.E. María Teresa Infante, the Permanent Representative of Chile to the OPCW. Poland believes that States Parties and the Technical Secretariat should continue to utilise provisions under Articles VII, X and XI to strengthen the OPCW's posture against terrorism. To this effect we also encourage the continued OPCW cooperation with other international stakeholders including Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, United Nations Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force or United Nations 1540 Committee.

At this juncture I would also like to emphasise the importance of chemical safety and security for decreasing chemical challenges and threats. This subject will dominate the conference



that is organised by Polish NGO – International Center for Chemical Safety and Security - from 18 to 20 April 2016 in Poland under the honorary patronage of the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs. I invite interested delegations to attend the briefing on the aforementioned conference tomorrow (Wednesday 16 March) at 1 pm in the Ooms room.

Regarding the discussion on the future of the OPCW Poland welcomes the initiative to establish an Open-Ended Working Group on this subject. We believe it will provide a venue for more organised and systematic discussions on future priorities and areas of interest. Poland believes that consensual recommendations coming out of this group shall be considered, as appropriate, in the preparatory process leading to the Fourth Review Conference.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---