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**POLAND**

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

Madam Chairperson,

Since this is the first time that this delegation takes the floor let me very warmly welcome you to the Chair of the Executive Council and assure you of the fullest cooperation of the Polish delegation.

Poland fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union however I would like to make a few additional observations in my national capacity.

First. As Poland stated previously we recognise mutual confidence as a key factor that underpins the credibility of the verification mechanism rooted in the Chemical Weapons Convention. Unfortunately neither engagement of the Director-General with Syrian authorities at a political level nor activities of the Declaration and Assessment Team at a technical level have led to clarification of inconsistencies and gaps that were identified by the Technical Secretariat in the declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic. On the contrary, the results of samples collected by the DAT have caused even more questions. This is a source of deep concern for my delegation. Therefore Poland supports the draft decision on the outcome of consultations with the Syrian Arab Republic regarding its chemical weapons declaration. There is a need for continuous oversight by the Executive Council over the issue of the Syrian declaration until all outstanding issues are fully clarified and all uninspected facilities are verified by the OPCW inspectors. We urge the Syrian Arab Republic to fully cooperate with the OPCW in this process.

Second. Chemical weapons still kill. Over the course of the last three years toxic chemicals were used many times to harm innocent civilians just like more than 100 years ago when chlorine gas was killing soldiers during the First World War. At the political level the world community is united to achieve complete prohibition of chemical weapons. However in practical terms we have to stop this very dangerous process where ordinary chemicals are misused which moves us back and undermines the universal prohibition of chemical weapons. Poland strongly believes that chemical safety and security should play a central role in the united efforts of the world community to prevent re-emergence of chemical weapons. In support of this objective, the International Center for Chemical Safety and Security based in Poland hosted in April the first Chemical Safety and Security Summit, which gathered over 400 participants from 40 countries. We welcome strong continued support of the OPCW for the global efforts to enhance chemical safety and security, which was highlighted by the presence



at that meeting of H.E. Hamid Ali Rao, the Deputy Director-General. Poland also noted that chemical security was also one of the main themes during the OPCW Days in May.

Third. During the Eighty-Second Session of the Executive Council we will focus inter alia on Articles VII, X and XI. Poland views implementation of provisions on national implementation measures, assistance and protection against chemical weapons and international cooperation as mutually reinforcing. Therefore as a State Party we try to be equally engaged in activities conducted by the Technical Secretariat in all three abovementioned fields. Under Article VII in September Poland will host a Regional Training Course for Customs Authorities of the States Parties in Eastern Europe. In June in support of the Article X activities Poland conducted a training course in conducting sampling and analysis in a highly contaminated environment. In order to assist in developing practical skills, the Polish chemical industry will once again invite associates for an internship under the flagship Article XI project—the Associate Programme.

Let me conclude on a personal note. The Eighty-Second Session of the Council may be the last one I'm attending. During my mission Poland chaired the Third Review Conference, twice was elected to the Executive Council, served as a Vice-Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties and also coordinated the Eastern European Group. This wouldn't be possible without the cooperation and support of the Director-General, Technical Secretariat staff and all delegations. I wish to express my gratitude to you all. The coming months and years at the OPCW will be marked by the serious discussion and decisions on the transformation of the Organisation and its future. I have no doubt the OPCW community will remain strong and united in achieving the ultimate goal a world without chemical weapons.

Thank you.

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