



OPCW

Executive Council

Eighty-Eighth Session
10 – 12 July 2018

EC-88/NAT.12
11 July 2018
ENGLISH only

POLAND

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARCIN CZEPELAK
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND TO THE OPCW
AT THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

Since it is the first time this delegation takes the floor, let me assure you, Madam Chairperson, of the full support of Poland to the work of this Executive Council session, and to your efforts in your new and distinguished assignment in the forthcoming months.

On behalf of my Government I would like also to seize this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of the Director-General in recent years, and his enormous contribution to achieving a world free of chemical weapons. Your legacy, Excellency, will obviously have a positive impact on the functioning of the Organisation in the future in such evolving and demanding circumstances.

Poland aligns itself with the European Union Statement delivered earlier this week by the distinguished Ambassador of Austria. On behalf of my country let me make two additional brief remarks on the special session of the Conference and on the Review Conference preparations.

Firstly, we met last month during the special session of the Conference to address the threat from chemical weapons use. As Mr Jacek Czaputowicz, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, stated during this Conference, its key goal was to uphold the integrity and validity of the Chemical Weapons Convention and, in a broader sense, the future of chemical disarmament and non-proliferation regimes. Minister Czaputowicz stressed in his statement that this issue is very dear to Poland, taking into account Poland's long standing contribution to chemical security around the world, in The Hague and New York, through its membership of the Executive Council, the United Nations General Assembly, and also currently the United Nations Security Council.

The adoption of the Conference decision of 27 June constitutes a crystal clear message from the international community regarding today's challenges. We do believe in vision of a world free of chemical weapons. We do support the global norm against use of chemical weapons. We have to do our utmost to stop the re-emergence of chemical weapons. For that very reason, we adopted concrete, substantial proposals on enhancing the verification regime and attribution mechanism of the OPCW in line with the objectives and provisions of the



Convention. Recent developments in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which follow the terrible incident in Salisbury in March, stress even more the urgency with which we need to uphold the ban on chemical weapons use and enact the conclusions of this Conference. In this demanding situation Poland stands in solidarity with the United Kingdom's Government and people. Poland is looking forward to the implementation of the Conference decision and stands ready to support the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat in this endeavour.

Secondly, we have entered the critical phase of the Fourth Review Conference's, preparation. The leadership and dedication of the distinguished Ambassador of Indonesia in this regard have been of utmost importance. This delegation appreciates it very much. During this process we have to pave the way for the effective and successful functioning of the Organisation in the years to come. Responding to emerging threats and challenges requires obviously inter alia enhancing the verification regime, dealing with chemical security and safety and, last but not least, enhancing the OPCW's role as a platform for dialogue and voluntary cooperation on all issues relevant to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Poland is looking forward to future discussions and will stay actively engaged in this process.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---