



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Eighteenth Session
2 – 5 December 2013

C-18/NAT.14
3 December 2013
ENGLISH only

POLAND

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR JAN BORKOWSKI PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND TO THE OPCW AT THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF
THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Thank you Mr Chairman,

At the outset of my intervention let me congratulate you on the appointment as the Chairperson of the Conference. I wish to assure you of the Polish delegation's full support and cooperation in the fulfilment of your important mandate. We have no doubts that under your leadership we will be able to reach a successful conclusion of the Conference.

I would also like to stress that Poland aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Mr Chairman, Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

In my statement I would like to address in detail a few additional issues, which are of particular importance to my delegation.

Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons

On a number of occasions Poland has condemned the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian conflict. We also expressed our strong conviction that the international community must do its utmost to prevent further use of chemical weapons. In this context we welcome the subsequent decisions of the Executive Council which provide a framework for the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria in the shortest time possible. We believe that under extraordinary circumstances and ambitious timeframe it is a shared responsibility of all the States Parties to ensure the dismantlement of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. Therefore it is my pleasure to announce that the Government of Poland has committed itself to support this effort financially and will contribute to the newly established OPCW trust fund. We treat it as a modest but practical input, which ought to bring us closer to achieving a chemical weapons free world and re-confirm the credibility and effectiveness of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Third Review Conference

Seven months have passed since the successful conclusion of the Third Review Conference of the Convention, which was conducted under the leadership of Ambassador Krzysztof Paturej of Poland. It is our strong conviction that the latest developments have only proven



the relevance of the outcomes of the review process and the need for OPCW transformation to meet emerging challenges. In this context we welcome the fact that results of the review process are being added into the framework of facilitation processes, in meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, and have also been guiding the work of the Technical Secretariat. The follow-up process should continue in the spirit of cooperation and political will. Therefore we welcome the inclusion of a separate agenda item on this subject in the timetable of this Conference and regular meetings of the Executive Council.

United Nations resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

It is my honour and pleasure to inform you that this year again the resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which is regularly tabled by Poland, has been adopted without a vote in the United Nations First Committee. We expect that later this week the United Nations General Assembly will endorse a resolution as well. Its contents have been discussed with the delegations in The Hague and at the United Nations, including the States not Parties to the Convention who joined the consensus on this important document. This year the Chemical Weapons Convention Resolution has been of special importance because it confirmed the unity of the United Nations' community in the extraordinary situation when chemical weapons were used in Syria, and Syria joined the Convention. Uniqueness of this year's draft resolution is also related to the fact that it reflects the outcomes of the Third Review Conference of the Convention and welcomes the Nobel Peace Prize award to the OPCW. Poland would like to thank all the States-Parties for their continuous support and cooperation in the process of the adoption of the Resolution.

The Convention and its implementation, for more than 16 years, have been contributing to enhancing international peace and security. This unique and exceptional role of one of the most successful disarmament instruments has been recently recognised by the Nobel Committee by awarding the Peace Prize to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The prize adds additional dimension to work carried out by the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties and at the same time it puts on our shoulders the responsibility to carry on in an effective manner.

In this context I wish also to congratulate Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü on the renewal of his appointment as Director-General of the OPCW. I appreciate the efficient way in which he has been leading the Technical Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you. I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

- - - 0 - - -