



OPCW

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POLAND

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JAN BORKOWSKI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(c)(x) – ARTICLE XI**

Thank you Mr Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

Since I am taking the floor for the first time allow me to congratulate you, Mr Ambassador Krzysztof Paturej, with the assumption of the chair of this Conference. I am convinced that your experience will guide us successfully throughout this important meeting.

I would like also to stress that Poland aligns itself with the statements of the European Union and by Ireland on behalf of the EU.

Since the Second Review Conference the OPCW, together with States Parties and the Secretariat, has successfully conducted a number of activities aimed at building capacities in the area of prevention and response to misuse or release of toxic chemicals, and to enhance chemical safety and security.

These activities have confirmed that the introduction of chemical safety and security in the work of the OPCW is highly desirable, although it has to be done gradually. The OPCW should not aim at developing its own independent capacity. The OPCW should not include chemical safety and security issues in inspection and verification activities. The Organisation should, rather, serve as a facilitator and promoter of voluntary cooperation, with the emphasis on regional cooperation.

Poland supports the evolution of the Organisation, as a long-term objective, towards a venue of support for global cooperation in reducing the chemical threat. As a practical implementation of this goals on 8 and 9 November 2012 in Tarnow, an international meeting on chemical safety and security was organised jointly by Poland and the OPCW. The presence of 250 participants from 56 countries allowed for discussion on strengthening of chemical safety and security at the international level, and exchange of information on good practices.

The steady development of the OPCW as a platform to decrease the chemical threat, promote international cooperation, and enhance chemical safety and security, will broaden the scope and accommodate the implementation of Article X (on assistance and protection) and Article XI (on international and technological cooperation). Both articles should be core drivers for the OPCW transformation.



We expect that the Conference will reflect the development of the roles of the OPCW and regional resource centers in national capacity-building to respond to the growing threats of misuse of toxic chemicals and provide guidance on further engagement in chemical safety and security.

I ask, Mr Chairman, that this statement be treated as an official document of the Conference.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

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