

***International Conference on Nuclear Security:
Commitments and Actions***

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**Statement by Mr. Andrzej J. Piotrowski
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Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director General,
Distinguished Guests,

It is my great honor and privilege to address you during the International Conference on Nuclear Security: Commitments and Actions. Poland welcomes the continued leadership of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the area of strengthening global efforts to prevent misuse of nuclear and other radioactive material for hostile purposes.

It goes without saying that Poland strongly supports achieving **the highest possible level of nuclear security globally, regionally and nationally**. Our commitment to this cause has been highlighted by a series of actions undertaken both at national and international levels.

Let me start from domestic actions as we believe that international efforts to strengthen nuclear security require, first of all, strong commitment at home.

While addressing the 60th General Conference of the IAEA I already informed about the assumptions of the Polish Nuclear Power Programme, which envisages construction of two nuclear power plants with combined capacity of 6 000 Mwe producing 50 TWh of electricity per year.

Poland is committed to preserving the highest standards of nuclear security in the development of the nuclear power programme as well as in other peaceful applications of nuclear energy. The political pledge in that area was emphasized by the participation of the president of the Republic of Poland Mr. Andrzej Duda in the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington earlier this year. Actions speak louder than words therefore Poland has been working hard for the past few years to strengthen the security of its nuclear facilities. Let me mention a few of our milestones.

- In 2016 in Poland hosted the **Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review** follow-up mission that concluded that Poland has fully implemented all recommendations and suggestions made during INIR mission in 2013. We are expecting to host INIR 2 in 2017.
- From 22nd February until 4th March 2016 the IAEA conducted the two-week IPPAS

mission, which reviewed Poland's nuclear security-related legislative and regulatory framework for nuclear material and associated facilities, as well as security arrangements applied to the transport of nuclear material. In addition, the team verified physical protection systems at the Maria research reactor and the Radioactive Waste Management Plant located in Otwock-Świerk, as well as at the National Radioactive Waste Repository in Różan. The recommendations and suggestions received from the Mission will strengthen national nuclear security regime.

- In October 2015 Polish government adopted the National Plan for radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel management. The National Plan defines tasks for the institutions involved in management of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, schedules, funding and is identifying new needs and sets goals for further works. Poland is preparing construction of new surface repository for low and intermediate waste. The geological studies of site are underway.
- In an effort to optimize the security of nuclear facilities in Poland, a special task-force group for developing proposals to strengthen the anti-terrorist security of the nuclear research reactor "Maria" in Świerk was established as a part of the Inter-ministerial Team for Terrorist Threats. The group formulated a number of recommendations aimed at improving the nuclear security of the reactor and nuclear material.
- The National Anti-terrorist Program has been adopted by the Government of Poland on 9 December 2014. Its priorities include – among others – objectives related to strengthening nuclear security against terrorist threats.
- On 17-20 November 2015, "Patrol 2015", an intensive operational exercise was conducted at the nuclear research reactor "Maria" facility in Świerk. It was organized by Europol, in cooperation with the IAEA and with support of the Police and the National Centre for the Nuclear Research. The overall goal was to improve preparedness of the CBRN experts and first responders to effectively react to incidents and emergencies involving radiological and nuclear materials.
- In cooperation with the US Department of Energy, Polish Border Guard continued process of improving its counter-smuggling capabilities with regard to nuclear materials. A number of relevant trainings and exercises have been conducted. Technical infrastructure of border-crossing points was also subject for improvement. Poland will continue cooperation with external partners in strengthening national responses to the nuclear and radioactive smuggling.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates

Let me now turn to actions undertaken on the global level.

I would like to highlight the most spectacular achievement that could not be possible without international cooperation and our participation in the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. Just weeks ago the last part of High-enriched Uranium contained in spent nuclear fuel that was used in our research reactor was successfully removed from the Polish territory. Poland joined countries that use only Low-enriched Uranium (LEU) as a fuel for its research reactor. This achievement notably contributed to improving the nuclear security in Poland and in the region. The successful conversion of the research reactor and removal of a spent HEU fuel is just another prove of my country's commitment to the international rules of nonproliferation of

weapons of mass destruction. We will continue to support efforts in order to minimize use of High-enriched Uranium in civilian applications.

Poland considers the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation system including peaceful uses of the nuclear energy – the third pillar of the Treaty, in which the issue of nuclear security is mostly being covered and discussed. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we have decided to take more responsibility on the upcoming NPT review process of 2020 by assuming in 2018 the chairmanship of the second preparatory committee to the NPT Review Conference and later on the chairmanship of Main Committee II of the Review Conference.

Poland already ratified all relevant international nuclear security conventions, including Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) Amendment, and is a member of international initiatives and mechanisms aimed at strengthening nuclear security and preventing illicit trafficking of nuclear materials. We will continue to support universal application of all relevant international instruments.

We also find as very important our membership in the **Proliferation Security Initiative**, in which we have been participating since its foundation in 2003. It has proven its utility as an effective mechanism to prevent proliferation of sensitive nuclear related materials. Unfortunately we continue to face this risk, which has been highlighted by progresses in development of North Korea's nuclear programme. This programme represents a serious challenge to the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime centered on the NPT and is conducted in violation of relevant UNSC and IAEA resolutions. It can also have adverse effects on the level of nuclear security worldwide.

Poland is also the member of the **Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism**. **10 years since its inception the GICNT has well established position in the nuclear security architecture.** It proved a useful platform for sharing information and best practices.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates

Poland will remain committed both nationally and internationally to strengthen the nuclear security standards. We welcome the fact that IAEA conferences on this subject are becoming an important element of the nuclear security landscape. We believe they offer unique opportunity to combine political guidance to the IAEA with possibility for experts to exchange views and information on practical side of the subject. Poland strongly encourages the IAEA to continue with this useful approach and we will be supporting Agency in this endeavor.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

