Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons
8 and 9 December 2014 in the Hofburg Palace Vienna, Austria

STATEMENT OF POLAND

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Austria for organizing and hosting the conference and for your generous hospitality.

For Poland, the nuclear disarmament is an important element of our security policy. We share the commitment of world without nuclear weapons. Together with other participants of the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) we call for further reductions in numbers of nuclear weapons as well as their role in security strategies, concepts, doctrines and policies. We also stress the need to include all categories of nuclear weapons in future talks between the US and Russia. Therefore, we support the inclusion of tactical nuclear weapons into general arms control processes.

We welcome the discussion on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons as it gives a scientific and educational dimensions to the ongoing debate on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. This is very important aspect which should not be omitted in our approach toward nuclear weapons. The scientific and educational scope of the conferences, commenced back in Oslo last year, should be maintained.

We also hope that, during the NPT Review Conference next year, initiators of this process will present the assessment of our debate and concept for the future, that goes in line with commitments of the NPT state parties.

Mr. Chairman,

We observe that the debate on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons is sometimes interpreted as a one that could lead us “to reach new international standards and norms, through a legally binding instrument” on nuclear disarmament. We do not believe this forum is a right one for that kind of deliberations and we don’t believe this could be optimal way to achieve any sustainable progress. For us it is the NPT that is the cornerstone for progress towards total nuclear disarmament.

There are no shortcuts on our road to a world without nuclear weapons. Any discussion on nuclear disarmament has to be inclusive and respect security objectives and commitments of all states. It has to take into account the central role of the NPT. It has to be pragmatic and takes into account the current security environment.

Therefore, we call on all states to increase efforts that will bring us closer to the nuclear disarmament. In this context, we would like to draw attention to some of the specific proposals included in the Working Paper “Building Blocks for a world without nuclear weapons”, submitted to the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear

\[1\] From Nayarit Chairman’s Summary
disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons in Geneva, in 2013.

We call on all states to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and all relevant treaties, including CTBT.

As we approach the 2015 NPT Review Conference, we believe that for the NPT members participating in the conference, the Vienna meeting and the advance of humanitarian impact discourse should be seen as an impulse towards full implementation of the Action Plan agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, not as an alternative to the NPT process. We then call on all state-parties to the NPT to come to the Review Conference in New York in May next year, with a strong commitment to achieve a consensus-based outcome, that will lead international community towards full implementation of NPT provisions.

We call on all states to work together, in good faith, at the International Atomic Energy Agency and to conclude and implement Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements together with Additional Protocols.

We call on nuclear weapons possessor states to continue efforts on further reductions of their stockpiles, present increased transparency in this regard, continue to decrease an operational readiness of their nuclear weapons systems as well as respect bilateral and multilateral nuclear security assurances.

We call on all states involved in the preparations to the conference on the Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone to present readiness to build bridges, trust and mutual understanding.

We call on members of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to show flexibility, break the deadlock and start crucial negotiations on Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

Mr. Chairman,

Those are only few steps necessary to bring us closer to the world without nuclear weapons. They require common effort of all states.

Only if those steps will be undertaken and fulfilled with sense of responsibility and seriousness, they will create a conditions for a complete nuclear disarmament.

Poland will continue efforts towards this point.

Thank you.