

*Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on  
Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons  
Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects*

**Geneva, 14th November 2011**

**POLAND**

**Statement by dr. Cezary Lusiński**

Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland  
to the United Nations Office  
and other international organizations in Geneva

Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset let me express our satisfaction on your appointment as the President of this important Conference. You can count on Poland's delegation's full cooperation and support in your endeavors towards a positive outcome of the Fourth Review Conference.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Poland attaches great importance to the Certain Conventional Weapons Convention as an effective source of international law. This instrument enables not only to present the states' positions but provides also for an open exchange of views between producers and users on the one hand, and international and nongovernmental organizations as well as those who suffered from the use of weapons on the other hand. Poland was always promoting and is actively involved in multilateral efforts to restrict the use of inhumane weapons. By depositing last September the ratification document on Protocol V to CCW and thus being bound by all CCW Protocols, we have demonstrated our commitment towards this goal.

Therefore it is our strong belief that the time has come to adopt an internationally, legally binding instrument restricting the production, use, transfer and stockpiling of Cluster Munitions. We share the opinion of the states which point out in the negotiations that we should focus on achieving results that would have instant, durable and meaningful humanitarian impact on the ground. In the same time the prospective Protocol VI should allow countries, who are not in a position to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions, but who nonetheless share its humanitarian concerns, to take a step in the same direction by agreeing upon a protocol, which would significantly enhance international humanitarian law. In other words, it is our obligation as a responsible state to seek for a balance between humanitarian and national security concerns.

Mr. President,

Against this background, Poland considers the draft protocol presented by the Chair of the GGE to be a solid basis for finalising negotiations. Furthermore, we have sincere hope that this draft, even if imperfect, taking into account a wide range of concerns and interests has the potential of reaching a necessary compromise. After lengthy and painstaking negotiations, having "on board" major producers and users, we should not let the chance of achieving a tangible humanitarian effect, limiting civilians' suffering especially, to slip away of our hands. Striving for success of this Conference by concluding a new protocol on Cluster Munitions remains a sole responsibility of negotiating parties – all national delegations. Let me reiterate my delegation's strong support for the efforts aimed on reaching a compromise and declare our constructive approach in seeking consensus.

In conclusion, let me assure you again of my delegation's whole-hearted support for your efforts. We stand ready to assist you in any way we can.

Thank You Mr. President.