

First Committee of the 77th UN General Assembly
Statement of the Republic of Poland
Cluster discussion on other weapons of mass destruction

Mr. Chairman,

As in the previous years, Poland would like to use the opportunity offered by the debate on other weapons of mass destruction to draw everyone's attention to the need to strengthen our efforts aimed at promoting full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine that started in February 2022 has grossly violated the UN Charter and undermined global security and the rules-based international order, bringing devastating consequences for the entire world. The dramatic events in Ukraine, have clearly shown that security cannot be taken for granted and that prevention of conflicts and the unlawful use of military force in international relations, especially the use of weapons of mass destruction, should be constantly in the center of our attention. Therefore, we must closely follow the developments in Ukraine and be ready to act swiftly and decisively in case of any violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Our message should remain strong and clear – we will continue to stand together to preserve the international standards and norms against the use of chemical weapons and there is no, nor there will ever be, our acceptance for the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances. Our focus should be equally placed on investigating all instances of the use of chemical weapons and ensuring that there is no impunity for those who resort to the use of such weapons or contribute to their development, as well as on preventing

the re-emergence of the use of chemical weapons. All perpetrators of such crimes should be held accountable.

The CWC bedrock – the complete prohibition of chemical weapons – needs to be safeguarded and we need to be able to respond resolutely to any attempts to challenge or undermine the integrity of the CWC and the credibility of the OPCW.

Today, more than ever, we need to convey a powerful and unambiguous signal of support for the CWC as well as for the OPCW leadership and its staff in their efforts aimed at promoting full implementation of the Convention and verifying that States Parties fully comply with the assumed obligations.

A great opportunity for putting this message across offers the latest draft resolution on the CWC implementation which Poland is traditionally introducing in this Committee on an annual basis.

As before, we have been making our best efforts to organize an open, inclusive and transparent process of preparing the updated text of the resolution. Our modus operandi regarding introducing changes to the draft is well known. Wherever possible, we have tried to preserve the agreed language of the resolution, adding only a few new elements which we felt were necessary in order to maintain the relevance of the resolution and reflect the latest developments of the utmost importance for the Convention and the OPCW. We are pleased that this year once again the consultations on the draft have shown that the resolution enjoys a huge interest. Let me express our gratitude to all the Distinguished Delegations that participated in these discussions and hope that the tabled draft will find the general acceptance of this esteemed Assembly.

Thank you.