

**Statement of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
Poland His Excellency Mr Marcin PRZYDACZ at the General Debate
of the 10th Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

New York, 2 August 2022

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates

Today, we are meeting at a critical juncture. Just right now it is already one hundred sixty days since Ukraine has been heroically fighting for its sovereignty and independence repelling the Russian aggression. On February 24th, whole global security architecture was challenged. This has also long lasting consequences for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Some basic facts need to be recalled for our further discussions. We are facing a totally unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine carried out by Russia – a permanent member of the UN Security Council, a nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty. Russia is destroying the rules-based international order based on multilateralism. Russia has violated each and every human rights commitments. Its aggression against Ukraine is a clear example of an attempt to subjugate and destroy another state, characteristic to colonial thinking and its modus operandi.

On top of that, we are facing a blatant violation of the Budapest Memorandum, providing Ukraine with security guarantees in exchange for its commitment to eliminate nuclear weapons from its territory.

Russian threats of using nuclear weapons continue. Its strategic forces are being put on high alert in the midst of the full-fledged conflict. The risk of miscalculation grows. Nuclear safety and security of Ukraine is challenged. The aggressor's attacks against nuclear power plants and installations in Ukraine are taking place. The shadow of the Chernobyl-like disaster looms over Europe again. All these aggressive actions are in contradiction with the spirit and the letter of international commitments undertaken by Russia in the nuclear sphere. This terrorist state behavior constitutes a clear and direct threat to global peace and security.

Our message is clear. We condemn the Russian aggression in the strongest possible terms. It must stop now and Moscow's forces have to withdraw. Furthermore, we need to support Ukraine and have to strive for maintaining of the arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation architecture.

Mr. President,

In these demanding times our expectations towards the Review Conference shall be ambitious, but realistic. Let me refer to a few points particularly important for Poland and directly related to the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Firstly, we should do our utmost **to strengthen, universalize and implement the provisions of the Treaty**. The NPT has proved its value over more than last fifty years being significantly tested and challenged, globally and regionally.

Secondly, we should reconfirm that a world without nuclear weapons is possible **only through effective, verifiable and irreversible disarmament in**

line with Article VI of the NPT. We cannot ignore today's security realities. Despite recent, vocal claims by some, they do not produce true incentives for nuclear disarmament efforts. If you wage a large scale war, as Russia does now, you show definitely no interest in nuclear disarmament.

Thirdly, we need to address the future of **the arms control global system.** Its current state of being is already a source of concern for some time. The New START Treaty shall contribute to maintaining overall strategic stability. But primarily, it should lead to a broader follow-on treaty which covers all nuclear weapons, including non-strategic ones in Europe, and their new types. China should constructively engage into these efforts. Any dialogue depends clearly on rebuilding mutual trust and confidence based on respect of international law. Because of the Russian invasion, we are in a much worse position compared to the previous NPT Review Conference.

Fourthly, we need to contribute to **strengthening the IAEA safeguards system and the role of the Agency.** Stronger it is, stronger is the deterrence message we deliver to those in different regions of the world who may feel particularly encouraged by aggression of one of nuclear weapons states in Europe to undermine international security architecture and obtain nuclear weapons.

Finally, we should renew our support **for the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.** In the current security circumstances it may be also often perceived as the way to provide future low-carbon energy mix. More importantly, it is a way to achieve strategic energy independence from unsustainable fossil fuels providers such as Russia.

Mr. President,

Poland approaches this Review Conference with a strong commitment to the goals and objectives of the NPT across all its three pillars. This is illustrated by our engagement in the NPT Review Process, IAEA Board of Governors, Nuclear Suppliers Group as well as in Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative and International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

Today it is a must to underline the NPT central role in global non-proliferation and disarmament system as well as to reemphasize and renew its commitments. I am deeply convinced, Mr. President, this will be also a key driving force behind your efforts in the forthcoming weeks. Congratulating you on assuming this important function, you can rest assured of support of the Polish delegation in this regard. Thank you.