

**14th Session
of the Conference of States Parties
to the Chemical Weapons Convention**

Universality of CWC

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Mr Chairman,

Since this is the first time that the Polish Delegation takes the floor at this 14th Session of the Conference let me welcome you warmly to the chair. We are certain that you will ably guide us throughout this important session.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

It is our honour and pleasure to inform you that the annual United Nations General Assembly Resolution on CWC Implementation has been adopted, without a vote, by the First Committee in New York. My delegation appreciates the recognition of the importance of the Resolution by the Director-General in his opening statement to the 14th Session of the Conference.

The active and continued coordination of the work on the CWC Resolution is a concrete input Poland has made throughout many years to promote the effective prohibition of chemical weapons. Support for both full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention and its universality are core objectives of Poland's efforts in support for the total prohibition of chemical weapons.

The Resolution on the implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention is a unique document. It emphasises the importance of the universality of the Convention. It provides United Nations support for all four pillars of the Convention. The first of these is the support for the irreversible *destruction* of all chemical weapons and their means of production. The second is *non-proliferation*, to ensure that new chemical weapons do not emerge. The third is *assistance and protection* for States Parties to defend themselves against the possible use of chemical weapons. And the fourth pillar is *international cooperation* to promote the peaceful uses of chemistry.

By adopting the Resolution by consensus every year, the United Nations has expressed unequivocal support for the prohibition of chemical weapons and the work of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

Polish Delegation has the pleasure to inform that on 16 October 2009 on the occasion of the meetings related to the Resolution on CWC Implementation the representatives of Poland and the OPCW Director-General conducted a series of individual meetings with representatives of States not Parties to the CWC. The purpose of the meetings, conducted also in 2008, was to contribute to the OPCW activities aimed at the promotion of full and universal membership to the Organisation and to reinforce contacts with the countries from outside of the OPCW.

Egypt, Myanmar, Israel and Syria accepted invitations to meet with the delegation of Poland and the Director-General.

The meetings were important CWC universality activities conducted by Poland along with the work on the draft UNGA Resolution on the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. They raised the level of contacts with the States remaining outside the OPCW and allowed for a fruitful exchange of views.

Poland will continue to organise such joint meetings with States not Parties to CWC during the sessions of the UNGA First Committee in coming years.

Thank you very much for your attention.

The Hague, 2 December 2009