

Statement by Poland

EoV after the vote on L.30

Mr Chair,

I would like to explain Poland's vote on the resolution L.30 *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction*.

Poland remains deeply committed to the principles of the United Nations Charter and to international humanitarian law. We share the global aspiration to reduce the suffering caused by armed conflicts and to promote responsibility and transparency in the use of conventional weapons.

At the same time, the reality of our security environment has changed profoundly. The ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine — a war of aggression being waged in direct proximity to our borders — has eroded the foundations of the European security. In these circumstances, Poland, as a frontline member of NATO and the European Union, must preserve the credibility of its defence posture and ensure the safety of its citizens.

In this context, Poland has decided to initiate the process of withdrawal from the Ottawa Convention. One of the decisions that are not taken lightly, as my Lithuanian colleague has just said. Yet it stems from the need to maintain effective national defence capabilities in a drastically altered strategic environment, while continuing to uphold our humanitarian responsibilities and our respect for international law.

Mr Chair,

In conclusion, let me emphasise: Poland's approach does not signify a departure from humanitarian values. We remain firmly committed to minimizing civilian harm, developing modern and controlled defensive means, and engaging constructively in global efforts that balance humanitarian concerns with legitimate security needs.

Poland's stance reflects responsibility, transparency, and a sober recognition that true peace is inseparable from security.

Thank you, Mr Chair.