

Statement of the Republic of Poland

Main Committee I – Nuclear Disarmament 2026 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) New York, 27 April – 22 May 2026

Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

We stand at a crossroads where the architectural integrity of global security is not just being questioned—it is being systematically dismantled. Poland fully aligns itself with the European Union, but I must address the gravity of our current reality from our unique national perspective.

Let us be clear: the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is not merely a document; it is the "unique and only credible instrument" we possess to prevent global catastrophe. Poland remains unshakeable in its commitment to Article VI. However, we reject the illusion of "short-cut" disarmament.

It must be verifiable, irreversible, and rooted in a stable security environment. Approaches that ignore these conditions risk undermining, rather than advancing, international peace and security.

Disarmament cannot be discussed in a vacuum while a full-scale war of aggression rages at Poland's borders.

Russia, a nuclear-weapon State and a permanent member of the Security Council, has shattered the very foundation of trust by violating the Budapest Memorandum. By attacking Ukraine—a state that voluntarily relinquished the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal—Russia has sent a chilling message to the world.

Such actions undermine the credibility of the non-proliferation regime and weaken the security assurances upon which many non-nuclear-weapon States rely.

In this deteriorating security environment, NATO Nuclear Sharing arrangements remains an essential pillar of Poland's security. Let there be no doubt: these arrangements are fully compliant with the NPT and remains our necessary shield against systemic aggression.

Poland condemns in the strongest possible terms the "nuclearization" of Belarus and Kaliningrad Oblast. This includes expansion of nuclear related infrastructure and announced deployment of tactical nuclear weapons.

The increasing role of non-strategic nuclear weapons and any lowering of the threshold for their potential use run counter to international efforts aimed at reducing nuclear risks and strengthening strategic stability.

We demand that Russia:

1. Immediately de-escalate and withdraw all forces from the sovereign territory of Ukraine.
2. Respect the rule of law. Arms control is dead without mutual trust and respect for international boundaries.
3. Engage in multilateral talks on restoring strategic stability.

The "old world" of arms control is fading. We "desperately need" a forward-looking framework that moves beyond the limitations of the past.

Future treaties must account for all nuclear weapons—specifically the thousands of non-strategic (tactical) warheads currently absent from formal oversight.

In this context, Poland calls for greater transparency from all nuclear-weapon States regarding their arsenals, doctrines, and modernization efforts, as transparency is indispensable for building trust and enabling further progress in disarmament.

We also call on China to engage more actively and transparently in arms control efforts. A sustainable and inclusive global disarmament regime cannot be achieved without the meaningful participation of all major nuclear powers.

Despite the darkness of the current geopolitical climate, there are flickers of hope. Poland is proud to contribute to the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPD), which seeks progress on disarmament by building the bridges between different regions and political perspectives.

We reaffirm that risk reduction is not a substitute for disarmament, but an essential and complementary step toward creating the conditions necessary for a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

The NPT is our best hope, but it is not a self-fulfilling prophecy. It requires active defense against those who would see it fail. Poland stands ready to do that work.

Thank you.