

Delegation from the Republic of Poland Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) are I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security; II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All; and III. Combating Human Trafficking. The Republic of Poland looks forward to working with all Member States in addressing these topics at the upcoming session.

I. Nuclear Disarmament and International Security

The harmfulness and danger of nuclear weapons is common knowledge. Since the first nuclear weapon has been used in 1945, the international community worked towards making sure that nuclear weapons will not be used again and efforts were made for getting rid of nuclear weapons altogether. Unfortunately, the multiple discussions and negotiations on the topic were not always successful, since the amount of nuclear weapons rose from 2 in 1945 to 15 000 in 2017, with a peak of 70 000 in 1987. Poland believes that we have to build upon already existing international treaties in trying to achieve international security, like the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* (TPNW), adopted by the GA in 2017 which prohibits the testing, development, stockpiling, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons; as well as GA resolution 14/1378 (1959) that calls on all states to establish measures to achieve general and complete disarmament; or GA resolution 70/40 (2015) that calls on Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) to enter bilateral, regional, and multilateral agreements to reduce existing stockpiles which reaffirms disarmament commitments in Article VI of the *Non-Proliferation Treaty* (NPT) (1968); and the 2017 GA resolution 72/38 that calls on nuclear-armed states to immediately halt improvement and development of nuclear weapons projects and to pursue disarmament measures for total nuclear disarmament. Poland is party to all important international conventions, treaties and agreements dealing with non-proliferation like the NPT, the *Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material* (ratified on 5 October 1983) and the *Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty* (ratified on 25 May 1999). Poland is also a member country of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) which is a multilateral export control regime and a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons. Being a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Poland supports the use of nuclear weapons as a deterrent strategy against threats outside NATO. On a national level, all nuclear activities in Poland are governed by the *Atomic Law Act* of 29 November 2000. We believe that, in order to achieve international security, the amount of nuclear weapons has to be reduced, but it cannot be achieved unilaterally. We believe that the best way towards achieving a reduction of the amount of nuclear weapons is bilateral or multilateral negotiation between NWS. Keeping in mind that the United States of America and the Russian Federation account for 92% of nuclear weapons in the world, we propose to call upon said states to continue the nuclear arms reduction negotiations. We propose regular meetings between the representatives of NWS in which ways of nuclear arms reduction will be discussed and proposed to national governments.

II. Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All

As of 2015, 1/7 of the world population or 1.06 billion people were lacking access to electricity and 20% of the world population lacks access to reliable power sources. The most affected being rural areas and Sub-Saharan Africa. Power outages frequently take place among developing states, too. The lack of access to energy has not only a negative economic effect, but also health and social implications. It additionally affects communication and transportation systems as well as cooking, heating or other basic human needs. Furthermore, it is important to ensure a constant supply of energy for production processes that rely on electricity, such as industrial and manufacturing activities. An uninterrupted supply of energy is fundamental for the well functioning of public institutions, hospital equipments and computers. Poland acknowledges the importance of the main international treaty with regard to ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, called the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda), which highlights the role of energy for global development. We especially want to highlight the commitment included in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on "Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for All." We believe that another step in the right direction was taken in the same year, with the adoption of the *Paris Agreement* at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), prompting energy efficiency and environmentally friendly sources of energy. We also would like to mention GA resolution 69/225 (2015), which stressed the importance of collective action and International cooperation in the implementation of SDG 7. Significant is also the 71st session of the GA in which Member states

agreed that development needs to be tailored to each country's specific needs, as opposed to a "one size fits all" approach. On a national and regional level we made significant progress in meeting SDG 7. With the *National Renewable Energy Action Plan* (2011) and the *European Union Renewable Energy Directive* (2009) we committed to generate at least 15% of our utilized energy from renewables by 2020. In the last ten years, approximately 15 billion € were spent in Poland for the development of Renewable Energy Sources (RES). We realize that in order to achieve SDG 7, energy sources must be reliable and affordable at varying income levels. According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs projections, the world population will increase, likely to reach 11 billion by 2100. That will lead to an increase in the demand for energy, meaning that energy supplies must also be sustainable in order to cover the expected needs. We believe that the only energy source that can meet this demands is nuclear energy, which has lower carbon emissions and is safer than most other sources of energy. Through the *Atomic Law Act* of 2000 we recognized the need to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, but in a manner that protects life, health, property and the environment. On 28 January 2014, the Polish government adopted a resolution on the *Polish Nuclear Power Program* (PNPP). The PNPP includes economic justification for the implementation of nuclear power in Poland, its financing and methods of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste management. Committed to safety, with the help of the US-based National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Poland has completed an effort to switch from highly enriched uranium (HEU) to low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuel in order to prevent spent or stolen fuel from being used in weapon manufacturing. Our solution in achieving the SDG 7 is to suggest the World Bank to extend the support of grid-based energy projects from renewable energy to include also nuclear energy. We also suggest to increase the financing by member states of the International Atomic Energy Agency research facilities by 10% in order to develop Generation IV nuclear technologies, which will be even safer, with lesser waste, proliferation resistant and highly economical. The technology developed will be shared with all interested Member States

III. Combating Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is a threat to the physical integrity, human dignity, sustainable development and basic human rights like life, liberty and security. Although it is illegal around the world, human trafficking is still a highly profitable activity, generating more than 150 billion \$ worldwide. With modern technologies, law enforcement has been able to track human traffickers and to discover many of their networks. Informational technologies were also used to spread awareness and assist victims of human trafficking. One of the earliest and most important frameworks in combating human trafficking is the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), adopted in 1948, especially articles 1-4 which state that "all human beings are born free" or "no one shall be held in slavery or servitude". Another significant international legislation that focuses on combating child trafficking is the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which was adopted in 1989. The optional protocol to said legislation states the obligation of the states to ensure that children are not subject to human rights violations, including human trafficking. A similar legislation with regard to women is the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, adopted in 1979. The *United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons* adopted in 2010 is an international framework for combating human trafficking by identifying risk factors associated with it. The negative impact that human trafficking has on society and economy is highlighted in the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, adopted in 2000. Poland also fully supports the Directive 2011/36/EU which is the fundamental EU legislative act addressing trafficking in human beings. On our national level, according to the Polish Penal Code, human trafficking is prohibited and penalized with up to 15 years of liberty deprivation. According to the *New Act on Foreigners* (AF) that came into force in May 2014 and the *Act on Social Assistance* (2011), the victims of human trafficking, including foreigners, have the right to shelter, meals, clothing, psychological assistance, financial support for specific purposes and free social or legal aid. Poland has also a Committee for Combating and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings whose task is to cooperate with agencies of government administration and local government, as well as with non-governmental organizations in order to propose improvements in combating human trafficking. In the ongoing fight of combating human trafficking, Poland proposes to continue to use informational technologies in monitoring criminal organizations suspected of human trafficking, but most of all to use modern technology to improve border control and security, which will reduce international human trafficking. We suggest public-private partnerships and yearly international gatherings where private companies from all over the world can present their technologies for improving border security and government officials can decide if presented solutions are superior to the one already in use. We furthermore recommend Member States to identify and build cross-border cooperation with countries of origin for victims identified on their territories, and to find country specific solution to address the issues. We also suggest to Member States to increase the penalty for human trafficking at a national level.