Meeting of the State-Parties to CCW

Statement of the Polish Delegation

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset let me congratulate you on assuming the chairmanship of the meeting. I assure you of my delegation’s support and cooperation during this session.

Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. Let me provide you with several remarks in our national capacity.

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons constitutes an important element of international legal order as it provides the most appropriate framework to address humanitarian concerns of certain conventional weapons without compromising States’ legitimate security requirements. The CCW rules ensure better protection of civilians and strengthen international humanitarian law.

It makes now universalization of this Convention even more urgent task than ever. In spite of its importance and in comparison to BWC, NPT or Ottawa Convention, CCW remains one of the least universalized legal instruments in the field of disarmament. We, therefore, strongly encourage all States which are non-parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to CCW as soon as possible.

Every UN Member State, in accordance with the UN Charter, has the right to individual or collective self-defense. However, when we talk about the use of conventional weapons, we should remember about the importance of compliance with the core principles of the international humanitarian law – distinction, proportionality and precautions.
Mr. Chairman,

The CCW is a proper place to discuss the humanitarian aspects of the use of conventional weapons, including explosive weapons. The character of conduct of the most recent military conflicts clearly shows that urbanized and densely populated areas become more and more the main battlefield. It has, of course, severe consequences for civilian population. We are in favor of having discussion on this issue within the CCW forum, however, without any additional limitations to the use of legitimate weapons.

Development of military capabilities of tomorrow requires special attention. That is why ongoing discussions on emerging technologies, especially in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS), are so important. As we are heading for the application of artificial intelligence to weapons, we should ensure that its development, implementation and possible use will remain in compliance with the international law, international humanitarian law in particular. In this context we welcome the recent work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems.

Last but not least, we need to stress the importance of fulfilment of the financial obligations to the Convention which ensure material foundation for its proper functioning.

I thank you,