



**REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Poland's perspective on Krakow Initiative's development**  
**H.E. Witold Waszczykowski, Undersecretary of State**  
**Washington, 28 May 2008**

*Check against delivery*

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's a great privilege to address this distinguished audience that gathered in Washington to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Krakow Initiative – Proliferation Security Initiative. This successful initiative, born 5 years ago in Krakow, Poland, is supported today by more than 90 countries. Multilateral approaches undertaken within PSI, a course evidently necessary for solving the world's problems, has found its methods and operations. PSI is a place of serious and multinational work.

As it was underlined in the address from the President of Poland delivered earlier today, my country is proud of PSI achievements to date. Representatives of states present here today created a unique structure that constitutes an important element of international efforts aimed at curbing weapons of mass destruction (WMD) proliferation. Complementary to the traditional nonproliferation and disarmament instruments, the Krakow Initiative - PSI is a part of the overall effort in support for nonproliferation – a one of pillars of collective security and strategic stability. PSI also accords entirely with the objectives set out in the United Nations Security Council's resolution 1540.

Challenges to the nonproliferation are emerging from changes to the security environment. Risks come from such factors as efforts of some countries or non-State actors (such as terrorists) to produce or acquire WMD materials. By countering such activity PSI covers one of the loopholes in nonproliferation regime – lack of mechanisms to stop illegal transportation of WMD or dual-use materials.

PSI exemplifies an active and concrete movement towards achievement of nonproliferation goals. Such joint and consensus approach is the best response to often heard critique of nonproliferation instruments. The critique that those instruments lack the flexibility necessary to adapt quickly and effectively to changing circumstances and requirements.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The source of PSI vitality and effectiveness lies in arduous cooperation between states and relevant services, that systematically and effectively implement the provisions of the Paris “Statement of Interdiction Procedures”.

An excellent example of the above is Central and Eastern Europe – a region not only fully supporting PSI but also very active in achieving PSI standards.

Since 2003 seven exercises and a number of meetings (both bilateral and multilateral) took place in that region. All those events underlined the very practical and operational character of PSI. The regional cooperation that included all countries of the region allowed to reach high operational level and helped to enhance national capabilities to detect and interdict WMD-related trafficking.

Poland strongly believes that similar model of PSI implementation could be promoted in other regions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Two years ago, participants of the High Level Political Meeting of PSI in Warsaw stressed the importance of maintaining the operational focus and further developing the PSI's regional dimension.

We encourage PSI supporters to organise a series of regional operational experts group meetings. Those meetings should bring together specialists from particular parts of the world and enable to more deeply discuss the concrete issues related to PSI activity.

In order to increase the readiness of European states to address PSI challenges more effectively, Poland will organise relevant regional operational experts group meeting next year. The detailed scope and character of this meeting will be provided later this year.

The Washington meeting should also give an impetus to develop an outreach program towards international organizations. This outreach should help them understand goals and activities of PSI.

Attention shall be given to specialized international organizations which have practical tools and expertise to fight WMD proliferation and WMD trafficking, organizations directly related to WMD nonproliferation (IAEA, OPCW), those dealing with transport (i.a. International Maritime Organisation and others) and finally – organizations which part of activity is related to WMD trafficking (Interpol). We should also consider closer exchanges with regional organisations, such as European Union.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I strongly believe that the Washington meeting should help to continue broadening the international consensus in favour of the fight against the WMD proliferation. PSI shall be seen as a global endeavour with an inclusive nature which relies on the widest possible cooperation between states from different parts of the world.

The international security is indivisible. Globalisation processes make any threat equally dangerous to all members of the international community. Everybody can be affected by the challenges of today, like terrorism and proliferation. And everybody should actively participate in building mechanisms that will prevent those threats. PSI is one of those mechanisms.

Thank you.