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**2000 Review Conference of the Parties  
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation  
of Nuclear Weapons**

18 May 2000

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New York, 24 April-19 May 2000

**Note verbale dated 17 May 2000 from the Permanent  
Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties  
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

The Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations has the honour to forward herewith the position of the delegations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia on the Belarus proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free space in Central and Eastern Europe, and kindly requests the Secretary-General of the Review Conference to publish it as a document of the Conference.

**Annex to the note verbale dated 17 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

**Joint statement by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia**

In connection with paragraph 59 of the report of Main Committee II (NPT/CONF.2000/MC.II/1) and with working paper NPT/CONF.2000/MC.II/WP.16, the above-mentioned countries must remind the Secretary-General of the Review Conference that a proposal expressed there is once again being advanced in disregard of the wishes of the overwhelming majority of countries from the region and in contradiction to the universally agreed principle mentioned in the United Nations Disarmament Commission guidelines. We should also like to recall that, in accordance with the guidelines on nuclear-weapon-free zones (para. 43), any proposal on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at should be considered in international forums only after consensus on the objective of such a zone has been achieved through broad consultations among countries from the region concerned. As this group of countries has stated on numerous previous occasions, this is far from being the case in our region.

Even though our delegations do not wish to prejudge the future relevance of similar initiatives, in view of the lack of consensus on this issue we are not in a position to accept any reference to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone or space in Central and Eastern Europe.

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