

**REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
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**S T A T E M E N T**

by

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Ministry of the Environment  
of the Republic of Poland**

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Mr. Chairman, Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will be brief to meet Chairman's request regarding the time limit. Full text of my statement is now being distributed in the room.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you and the Bureau members for excellent preparation of this session. I wish to express my appreciation to the Secretary General for his report on the major challenges we are facing in the areas of energy for sustainable development, industrial development, atmosphere pollution and climate change.

The distinguished Minister of Austria already spoke on behalf of European Union and its member states, but I would like to offer some additional comments. Indeed access to energy, energy supply and industrial development are indispensable for development, as well as eradication of poverty, which is the first of the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues

Global climate change is a major challenge the human kind will face in the coming years. Poland considers that energy supply security is a precondition for further development and economic growth of the world. Therefore I will focus on these two issues, using our own experiences.

While our GDP has been growing recently by up to 6 per cent annually, energy consumption growth never exceeded 2%, and GHG emissions have decreased by more than 30 % since 1988. Sulphur dioxide emissions decreased more than 50% and particulates almost 90% during the same period of time.

These positive developments have been possible due to structural changes in our economy and persistent implementation of priorities identified in the National Environmental Policies. An important role in this process played the establishment of unique environmental financing schemes, namely environmental funds, debt to environment swaps and effective use of available resources. We are ready to share our experiences with other countries.

Although our economy has been growing fast during recent years, the state of environment has been improving and the biodiversity is at the same level or even richer. We strongly believe that environment and biodiversity are important elements contributing to economic development, for example biodiversity resources can be used for job creation and development. Taking into account the linkages between natural environment, natural resources and development, we find it important to reverse negative global trends of losing biodiversity resources.

Referring to energy for sustainable development the most important issues, in our opinion, are:

- improvement of energy security, including by diversification of energy sources,
- increasing access to reliable and affordable energy services for sustainable development, particularly in developing countries,
- increasing the use of renewable sources for energy production,
- decoupling of economic growth from energy demand, i.e. by changing energy consumption patterns and improving energy efficiency
- integration of energy access, energy efficiency, air and climate protection measures into national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, sustainable development programmes, etc.,

- more active involvement of general public and stakeholders into decision making, and public-private partnerships.

With regard to sustainable industrial development, Poland considers as the most important the following:

- creating friendly environment for development of small and medium sized enterprises, and assist them in their development,
- changing consumption and production patterns to much more sustainable path
- supporting development of scientific research aiming at environmentally sound technologies and technology transfer,
- developing corporate social and environmental accountability and responsibility, including through environmental management schemes and integrated product policies,

Mr. Chairman,

It is not possible to win the battle against the climate change with the participation of developed countries alone. This challenge requires much broader, global response. The share of developed world in global GHG emissions is decreasing and even more ambitious targets for this group of countries will not be enough to stop global warming. The developing countries will continue to develop and will need more energy to meet the demand of their societies. The main challenge for the international society is now to assist the fast growing developing countries in choosing the path of development contributing to measures aiming at stabilization and reduction of global GHG emissions in the coming years. We are open to discussion of any possible framework of future climate change regime involving all countries.

Climate change is closely linked to energy supply challenge. The rapid development of global economy, including emerging economies, will require more and more energy, including energy from fossil fuels. The recent rise of oil and natural gas prices should stimulate development of new, zero and low emission technologies. Otherwise the issue of energy safety will be an overriding priority for many countries, one even more important than the need to stop global warming. Poland as a country with an energy sector based on coal is particularly interested in such technologies, as well as carbon capture and storage technologies. Moreover, Poland recognizes the need for an increased share of renewable energy in the future energy mix. Any new GHG emission reduction targets after 2012 will require significant changes in the energy sector. We need to ensure, that such changes will not influence the energy safety at national, regional and global scale, in a negative way.

Mr. Chairman,

Our discussion would not be meaningful without integration of cross-cutting issues such as poverty eradication, changing consumption and production patterns, education for sustainable development, raising public awareness and participation, capacity building, health, gender equality and development of new, effective financial and investment mechanisms into all four of the themes discussed during the present session.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman