

**The high-level United Nations Conference to Support the  
Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and  
sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for  
sustainable development**

**Thank you Mr. President,**

**The main objective of our Conference is to identify ways and means to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, build on existing partnerships and stimulate innovative and concrete new partnerships in this regard.**

**Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on climate change are crucial and complementary documents for the successful implementation of the goal SDG 14.**

**Poland has participated in the negotiations of Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals very actively. We have always strongly supported the establishment of the Goal SDG 14. This goal is very important for countries, which development and economy depend on the use of oceans and seas. In this regard I recognize a special situation of small island developing states (SIDS).**

**"My delegation joins others in calling for the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to support the implementation of SDG14, and in this context, stresses the importance of appointing a Special Representative of the Secretary General for Oceans, to help galvanize efforts to support SDG14 implementation."**

Mr. President,

Poland is committed to marine protection. Along with the other states situated by the Baltic Sea, from the early 70s' we have undertaken actions to monitor and protect the Baltic environment in accordance with the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area or HELCOM (Helsinki Commission).

Moreover as the European Union member state, Poland established the Marine Strategy Framework Directive with the range of actions to protect the marine environment in the coming years. The framework is focused on fighting the pollution and the marine debris as well as all the actions associated with the preservation of the marine ecosystems.

Mr. President,

Despite the fact that Poland has no access to any ocean, we take into consideration oceans' great role in the regulation of the world's climate, both in the scope of the concentration of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the global temperature increase. The negative impact of climate change on oceans and seas is beyond any question.

In 2018 Poland will host the largest UN Conference on climate change - COP24. It will be the third time for the Polish Government to organize COP. The previous climate conferences were held in Poznań (COP14 in 2008) and in Warsaw (COP19 in 2013). Both were perceived as very successful. It was in Warsaw where we collectively laid foundations for the Paris Agreement and agreed to submit Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

We are aware of the responsibility assumed by the COP Presidency. Poland intends to lead the global climate negotiations in the spirit of the Paris Agreement - ensuring participation of all countries, transparency of the negotiations and respect of different national circumstances. The priority for COP24 it will be the adoption of the so-called rulebook (a detailed rules for implementation of the Paris Agreement) as well as the Facilitative Dialogue - a summary of all collective efforts by the signatories of the Paris Agreement up to now.

We look forward to enhancing our cooperation with all Parties to complete the creation of the new climate protection regime during the COP24 in Poland. Our ambition is to establish the sustainable path of the world with its three dimensions: environmental, economic and social.

Mr. President.

The ocean remains a common property of all nations. We believe that all states can possibly contribute to the oceans and seas protection. Government of the Republic of Poland has undertaken several major steps in order to secure and preserve natural resources of the Baltic Sea.

The achievement of my country in the implementation of goal 14 (particularly target 14.5 on marine protected areas) is establishing of the Seal Sanctuary in Hel, a popular Polish resort at the Baltic Sea. The other significant achievement was establishing of the System of Coastal and Marine Baltic Sea Protected Areas (BSPA).

Mr. President,

Here in the UN, together with our partners from Italy, the Bahamas, Kenya, Palau, the important NGO Oceans Sanctuary

Alliance and the Stony Brook University (Institute for Ocean Conservation Science) Poland is one of the co - chairs of the Steering Committee “10x20 Initiative on Marine Protected Areas”.

The initiative 10x20 was launched to contribute to implementation of target 5 of sustainable development goal SDG14 which aims to conserve, by 2020, at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas and biodiversity.

Taking this opportunity, from this place I would like to thank my distinguished colleagues for their efforts and involvement in our initiative and encourage all UN member states and other stakeholders to join us.

Thank you very much.