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Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister of Economic Development

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**Poland's written statement for the 2020 High-level Political Forum/ High-level Segment of ECOSOC**

***Dear Excellencies, Dear Friends and Stakeholders of the 2030 Agenda.***

Past June marked the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations. The celebrations were taking place at a time of great upheaval, as the COVID-19 virus continues to spread, exacting a heavy toll on lives, societies and economies in all regions of the world. The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most complex challenges facing the global economy in the last decades.

All countries – with no exception – share the burden and the responsibility to rebuild more resilient and sustainable economy, to make it a better place for current and future generations and to fulfill with even bigger determination the global commitment to achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The pandemic has influenced all areas addressed by SDGs in each dimension: from health through the economy, social issues towards the climate. It has also proved that working towards all SDGs - both in times of prosperity and downturn is extremely important. Sustainable development as a concept, together with the SDGs as a compass form an integrated perspective for tackling this crisis and shaping the way out.

All actions taken by Polish government in a response to the crisis were guided by the principles of leaving no one behind and of helping the weakest - in accordance with the principles underlying the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Poland has rapidly developed solutions to protect its citizens and maintain the potential of the economy, adapting the package to stimulate the economy worth USD 80 bn (ca 15% of its GDP).

**Our priority in this difficult time is to maintain as many effective Polish companies and workplaces as possible. We are ready to take actions that will ultimately translate into higher labour productivity in Poland, and thus increase the income and the standard of living of citizens while taking special care of the natural environment.**

**Above all, we have an opportunity to take a big step towards the economy of the future – a digital, environmentally friendly and circular economy. This point of view emphasizes the need of investments. Such a direction has been set at the EU level, of which Poland is a member. Horizontal measures aimed at increasing the use of data and modern technologies in economic activity, increasing human capital and innovativeness of enterprises and the spread of knowledge are also important in this context. We will continue to act in this direction.**

**We emphasize the importance of just transition towards climate neutrality. We should set ourselves ambitious energy and climate targets at the same time as they must be realistic.**

**Getting out of the crisis on the sustainability path is the only real alternative in a context of shrinking resources, climate change and other urgent challenges that have not lost their relevance and some of them became more important during the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular the strengthening of resilience mechanisms in the health system.**

**However getting out of the crisis on the sustainability path requires high quality, timely, reliable, comparable and disaggregated data and statistics. Statistics are becoming even more important today due to the need to combat effects of COVID-19 pandemic and monitor its impact on social and economic life. An increasing demand for data describing impact of COVID-19 pandemic on different areas of life is a challenge for official statistics but could be also perceived as a chance at the same time. Statistics has proven itself a necessary public good, governing a series of state policies. What is more, its focus on users, on public interest, serving people with reliable, timely and often very granular information addresses the main messages of the SDGs and helps to measure them better in spite of the pandemic.**

**Poland wants to use the post- COVID-19 recovery process to strengthen our commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. By making progress along this path and using the funds effectively, we can build sustainable competitive advantages and socio-economic potential to better respond to future crises.**

**This requires broad cooperation and partnership between the government at central and local level, its agendas, as well as between the business community and all stakeholders.**

We try to further build such cooperation in a sense of unity and solidarity both at home and internationally.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call for inclusive multilateralism. Poland appreciates the UN leading role in ensuring putting into practice the consensus on strengthening multilateral cooperation in combating the pandemic. To this end Poland has already contributed to the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19, launched on 25 March 2020 by the United Nations.

Having in mind the great burden the pandemic imposes in particular on developing countries, Poland will work to maximize the UN-system-wide efforts. The fight against global pandemic requires increased, intensified international cooperation and global solidarity. It is a reminder of how crucial multilateral institutions are to our collective health, prosperity and security.

Shared values, shared responsibility, shared sovereignty, shared progress – these must be our guide and our goals.

**Yours faithfully/Yours sincerely**



**[electronically signed]**