

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Jan TRUSZCZYŃSKI, Secretary of State,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, New York, June 30th, 2005**
ECOSOC, Substantive session 2005, High-level segment. Item 2: Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits: progress made, challenges and opportunities.

Mr. President,

The views of the Polish delegation are fully reflected in the statement made by Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union. Yet, let me present a few additional comments.

Our meeting comes at the special moment as we are in the middle of the preparations towards the September Summit. We all agree that the time has come to assume responsibility for achieving the internationally agreed development goals. It is vital to keep the promises that have been made following the adoption of the Millennium Declaration as well as the commitments taken at the major UN conferences and summits. Success is possible, but it requires that we accelerate the pace of our adjustment, scale up our resources and apply them more skillfully to satisfy the basic needs of the poorest. This year is a crucial time: it will test the reliability of our involvement and integrity of our purpose.

Mr. President,

Poland agrees with the views of the Secretary-General on the role of ECOSOC in achieving the development goals. We recognise the key role of this body in improving co-ordination, coherence and integration of the UN activities in the economic, social, environmental and human rights fields. We are in favour of strengthening ECOSOC's relations with the international financial institutions and the regional development organisations. ECOSOC is well positioned to make a major input as a central co-ordinating body responsible for reviewing the UN system contribution to achieving internationally agreed development goals. To this end we welcome the fact that ECOSOC's reform is dealt with as an essential part of the UN reform and therefore a part of the agenda of the September Summit.

Mr. President,

The Secretary General is right when he points out in his report that the MDGs must be pursued as a part of "a larger agenda". While moving forward we must fully recognize that the achievement of the MDGs and implementation of the outcome of the major UN summits and conferences are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Together they provide the broadest and the most comprehensive framework for our actions. At the same time we strongly support an ever deeper recognition of close inter-linkages between development, security and protection of human rights.

The fulfilment of this large and ambitious agenda requires long-term involvement and clear focus. It will not be possible without improving co-ordination, integration and coherence of our common efforts.

Mr. President,

In the process of fulfilling our common ambitions we should not lose sight of the diversity and complexity of the situations and interests of different countries and their groups. International relations should not be reduced to a North–South dichotomy.

We all agree that the least developed countries, of which most come from Sub-Saharan Africa, are the ones that must be given special consideration in our actions. In this regard stronger support should also be provided to regional integration mechanisms such as NEPAD, a necessary complement of the activities of individual states.

Yet, at the same time more attention should be paid to the situation of countries with economies in transition. An expression of solidarity in their efforts to combat poverty and a willingness to support them in implementing their development programmes are a critical requirement. Numerous examples, including our own country, clearly demonstrate that the international assistance provided to countries with good governance, protecting human rights, promoting economic growth and private sector development, is the best investment and paves the way to successfully evolving from an aid recipient to an emerging donor status.

Mr. President,

Poland - as an emerging donor country and an EU Member State - is determined to actively participate in the development cooperation in the spirit of solidarity and shared responsibility.

The share of aid in Poland's GNI has been growing rapidly over the past few years. In 2004 we provided 117 million USD in ODA, the equivalent of 0.05% of our GNI. By 2010 we are determined to meet the target of 0.17% GNI. While focusing our aid on developing countries and those in the process of transition we fully respect the principles of national ownership, partnership and transparency in aid delivery.

We agree that increased, predictable and stable Official Development Assistance is one of the fundamental commitments of the Monterrey Consensus. In this context the latest decision of the European Union on setting up new collective targets of ODA is a step in the right direction. We hope it will be followed by other developed partners.

At the same time we hope that the recognition of the specific situation and the efforts of the emerging donors by the international community will encourage them to further increase their contribution to development cooperation.

We also strongly emphasize that improving an impact and quality of aid is as important as increasing its quantity. An international harmonisation of aid delivery and streamlining its procedures are a basic requirement to ensure the desired outcome.

Mr. President,

Commitment to an open and equitable trading system is a condition for the Doha Round to make a full use of its development potential. The December Ministerial meeting of WTO in Hong Kong will be an important opportunity to make further headway. Special and differential treatment should be accorded to the developing countries while also accounting for the *per capita* income differences among them. Duty-free and quota-free market access to all exports originating in LDCs is an important condition for a positive negotiation outcome. Trade-related technical assistance and capacity building to help countries make use of trade liberalisation are another basic requirement.

Long-term debt sustainability remains an essential condition for economic stability and development. Progress made by the IMF and the World Bank in preparing their debt sustainability framework and by the G8 in considering new strategies for dealing with the debts of low-income countries deserves acknowledgement. We salute the initiative of the G8 ministers of finance to substantially reduce the debt owed by the world's poorest countries put forward ahead of the summit in Gleneagles. It is a most welcome step towards resolving the problems faced by many of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries.

Mr. President,

The implementation of the UN agenda of poverty reduction and promoting development is not only a major moral challenge but also a great exercise in effective multilateralism. It is geared to the year 2015. However, we should already be looking beyond that deadline. We need to consider a new generation of policies and programmes, focusing on the challenges of globalisation, the implications of uneven economic growth and the cumulative effects of demographic transition. Persistent pollution of the environment and depletion of non-renewable resources are other negative factors generating considerable economic and social tension within and among nations.

Within the long-term perspective we must also devote more attention and resources to the viability of social programmes, including health, education and retirement. Greater focus should be placed on providing employment and reducing joblessness, as one of the basic goals of social policy and principal conditions for eliminating poverty and ensuring decent standards of living. We expect that a systematic exchange of views on this subject will inspire new ideas for eliminating international disparities in this regard. The successes and failures of our efforts to overcome poverty ought to help us to deal with the ever more complex realities that lie ahead.

Mr. President,

The events of the last months and weeks demonstrate that the momentum has been gathering and the development issues in their broadest scope are at the heart of the world political agenda. I am positive that this year's ECOSOC session will be another substantial contribution to the success of the September Summit.

Thank you.