

REPUBLIC OF POLAND
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



9 EAST 66th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

TEL. (212) 744-2506

High-level Meeting on the theme
“Africa’s development needs: state of implementation
of various commitments, challenges and the way forward”
General Assembly of the United Nations

Check against delivery

S T A T E M E N T

by

Mr. Ryszard SCHNEPF

Under Secretary of State

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

New York, 22 September 2008

Madam President, Mister President,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

At the outset let me thank you for convening this important and timely meeting which gives us all an excellent opportunity to discuss the crucial issue of Africa's development needs.

I wish to thank all task teams and groups that were responsible for preparing the documents concerning the progress on the implementation of Millennium Development Goals, including the *MDG Gap Task Force*. They constitute an excellent basis for our discussion regarding Africa's development needs. The body of evidence contained in those documents shows us clearly the areas where we should put the utmost effort in order to fulfill our commitments. It is also evident that Africa is the continent in most urgent need of assistance from the international community on its way to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

We are very satisfied with the economic growth that Africa has been experiencing in recent years, and thanks to which some progress has been made in the area of Africa's development. However, international community must react quickly and effectively to counteract a growing impact of recent negative phenomena, that can draw back the progress that has been made. I refer specifically to the observed slowdown of the global economy, and rapid growth of the food and energy prices.

In that context, it is of vital importance to restore the right dynamics of the scaling up of financial resources for development. During the last three years, the Polish official development assistance (ODA) has grown threefold in a very dynamic way. In 2005 the Polish ODA amounted to more than 204 millions of USD, while in 2007 it surpassed the amount of 362 millions. We hope to keep this pace of growth, so that we are able to fulfill our commitments undertaken within the European Union, and various international fora.

We observe with satisfaction a growing number of new donors appearing in the field of global development. Poland itself has joined the community of donors recently. We undertake all efforts to implement our commitments in accordance with provisions of the Paris Declaration, and the principles of aid efficiency expressed therein. It is essential that we avoid at all costs the fragmentation of aid. It is one of the greatest obstacles on the way to the sustainable and effective fulfillment of the MDGs.