



# REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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*Check against delivery*

*STATEMENT BY*

***HER EXCELLENCY BEATA SZYDŁO***

***PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND***

**HIGH-LEVEL SIGNATURE CEREMONY FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENT**

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am very happy to see here today so many fellow leaders commemorating the signing of this agreement. It was not so long ago that we all gathered in Paris to unite our efforts and orchestrate solutions that could stand a chance against one of the greatest threats facing mankind today – climate change. Today, here in New York, we once again have the opportunity to voice our political and social will and continue to work towards climate neutrality and sustainable development.

The foundations laid down in Paris are solid and cohesive, but the real work begins now – every party to the Agreement has before it a call to fulfill their pledged obligations and begin implementing them on a national level.

The European Union and its member states are preparing for the ratification and implementation of the Paris Agreement, according to its provisions. It has been important to us to be fully party to the Agreement from its conception; however, we must be cognizant of the fact that the European Union is responsible for little more than 10% of global emissions. Effectively halting climate change is thus contingent on all parties to the Agreement undertaking their respective responsibilities. Now, as in Paris, Poland pledges its commitment to the Agreement provided that it will have truly global character, and will include, in particular, commitments of the world's largest economies. Parties that have committed to climate change reduction targets subject to external support, having received that support – including that from the European Union - must both fulfill these commitments and strengthen any adaptive measures serving as preconditions for sustainable development.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The effective implementation of the Paris Agreement is a challenge to all countries. In Poland, we are familiar with how difficult it is to simultaneously reduce emissions while maintaining economic growth. The Paris Agreement nevertheless gives each country the opportunity to decide for itself the best possible legislation and technology that correspond to the criteria of environmental effectiveness and economic policy. The European Union, as the entire world, is not homogenous. Our economies, as well as the energy systems that serve as the foundations thereof, require the coordination of innovative solutions in order to facilitate the ambitious goals set out by the Agenda 2030. I am certain that the legislative work being done in this regard will soon be finalized and implemented.

Poland is a strong advocate of effective and practical solutions. We are particularly pleased with the role given to carbon sinks and greenhouse gas repositories, forests included, as neutralizing factors in the global greenhouse gas account. Adequately utilizing natural resources such as forests can have a great effect in offsetting climate change. Poland is committed to support initiatives in this regard. We are also pleased that the Agreement affords an opportunity for the coordination and cooperation of innovative market instruments, as well as their standardization on a global scale. Together with the European Union, we have had years of experience in designing such instruments, the applications of which are increasingly relevant today.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

With the implementation of the Paris Agreement, I once again call for solidarity with those countries most affected by the negative impacts of climate change. In this context, we sincerely hope that the Green Climate Fund will be able to effectively utilize the financial resources allocated to climate aid. To conclude, we see a great deal of benefit in augmenting the level of synergy among all conventions directed at sustainable development and thus, by protecting the climate also contributing to poverty eradication and enhancing food security for all.

*I thank you.*