

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates and guests,

The Polish government follows with keen interest all UN activities related to implementation of sustainable development goals. The findings of the ICPD and the current work of the CPD are an important inspiration for the Polish government's activities in the field of impact on population and development policies. I would like to express my thanks to UN employees and their colleagues from the international community for their efforts in supporting Member States to achieve the SDGs.

Like many other European countries, Poland has experienced a number of unfavorable population changes in recent years. Higher mortality was already observed before the emergence of Covid-19, and due to the so called health debt, mortality is still higher than before the epidemic. The fertility level dropped below the lowest low fertility limit, and in 2023 it reached a record low value of just below 1.2. The vast majority of local communities are subject to depopulation and a change in the age profile, which in some cases even manifests itself in the age pyramid's deformation. Since 2015, Poland has become an inflow country when it comes to international migration, and the phenomenon of immigration inflow was particularly visible in 2022, when Poland became home to over a million Ukrainian war refugees fleeing from the Russian aggressor.

In recent years, in the face of depopulation resulting from negative natural growth, the Polish government has undertaken a number of initiatives aimed at improving the demographic situation. The position of government plenipotentiary for population policy was introduced, ministries of family and senior policy were established, and in the last year, the Inter-ministerial Team for Counteracting Negative Demographic Phenomena was established. The Demographic Strategy 2040 has been developed, and work is currently underway on the assumptions of the migration policy. The newly appointed government continues the activities developed by its predecessors to support parenthood, which is reflected in the increase in the amounts of family allowances and the introduction of various forms of financial support for parents of children up to 3 years old, aimed at facilitating the return to work by increasing the ability to pay for care services. At the same time, a network of public institutions offering high-quality and affordable childcare is being developed.

In the face of the rapid aging of the population, actions are taken to activate seniors and provide them with care and nursing services. It is planned to introduce cash benefits in the near future, enabling dependent older people to purchase care services on the market. At the same time, solutions are being prepared to ensure permanent and equal access to personal assistance for

people with disabilities, which will be financed from public funds. Despite no attempts to increase the statutory retirement age, the Polish government is trying to encourage as many seniors as possible to remain professionally active by introducing tax breaks that increase the attractiveness of longer work for employees and their employers.

Mr. Chair,

Poland remains strongly committed to the Cairo Programme of Action and the outcomes of its reviews and reaffirms its strong support for its further implementation. Poland will continue to work towards the full implementation of SDGs, addressing persistent inequalities and promote diversity, inclusion and the enhancement of resilience of societies.

I thank you for your attention!