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S T A T E M E N T

by

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Mr. President,

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. President, and the Bureau members on the excellent preparation of this session. I would like to stress that Poland recognizes key role of the Economic and Social Council in the process of improving the coordination, coherence and integration of the UN system activities in the economic, social, environmental, humanitarian and human rights fields.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

Poland fully associates itself with the statement presented by France on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I would like to present some remarks in my national capacity and in particular focusing on two issues: major challenges in the current social and economic situation and Poland's preparations for the Climate Conference that will be held in December in the city of Poznań.

Mr. President,

One of the major problems we are facing now is the growth of food prices on the global markets. This situation results from many factors. To alleviate the effects of the present food crisis, we need to undertake long-termed and well organized international actions leading to major structural changes in the global agriculture policy, not only in the developing countries. There are two ways of proceeding: short-term assistance efforts that must be undertaken in an urgent manner and long-term coherent development cooperation.

The prices increase affects especially the poorest who spend most of their income on food. That is why the first line of action is to respond effectively to requests for assistance coming from those countries. At the same time, long-term measures must lead us to changes in the architecture of the development cooperation to help developing countries to increase investments in agriculture and rural development. International financial institutions could provide financial support for low-income countries, also in the form of suspending debt servicing until the stabilization of the situation on the global food markets. It is also essential to facilitate access of small-scale food producers and local farmers to seeds, fertilizers, fodder and to technical assistance in order to increase their future agricultural production.

Besides, we have to engage private sector, foundations and scientific institutes to work on innovative programs and projects aimed at combating hunger and malnutrition. Worth considering is an idea of "international brain storming" on how to effectively share the *know-how*, experience and best practices in the agricultural production. Moreover, we all hope that rapid and successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Round will give farmers, especially in developing countries, new opportunities to sell their products on world food markets.

Excellencies,

Some of the actions I have just mentioned are listed in the *Declaration of the High-level Conference on World Food Security* that was organized in Rome in June. In our opinion, this conference was a success that gave an international community a strong impulse to the process of achieving food security. Commending FAO, WFP, IFAD and Biodiversity International for

taking a lead on this very important issue, Poland also expresses satisfaction with the first results of the work of the *High-level Task Force on the Global Food Crisis* chaired by the Secretary General of the UN in the form of an outline of a *Comprehensive Framework for Action*.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,

The food problem is closely linked with climate change. For the international community as a whole, climate change is likely to represent the single biggest challenge of this century. It will have an impact on our entire environment, but of all areas of human activity, it is agricultural production and food systems that are the most vulnerable. While for the developed world mitigation efforts remain a top priority, in the developing world, governments need to concentrate on adaptation policies. However, there are still many unknowns. More research is needed to draw a map of regional and local consequences of climate change.

Excellencies,

Poland attaches a special attention to the question of climate change, putting this issue on the top of our political agenda. That is why we will be hosting the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 4th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Poznań from 1 to 12 December this year. The details concerning the preparation of this Conference will be provided by representatives from the Polish Ministry of Environment and the city of Poznań at a briefing on 11 July here, at the UN Headquarters. On our part we will spare no effort in order to make this prestigious international meeting a success. We hope that the session in Poznań will be an important step in the realization of "Bali Road Map" and will project a common vision for long-term cooperative action, including a long-term global goal for emission reductions.

Negotiations are under way for a new global agreement for the next decades. In many countries the rapid economic development very often is achieved by investments in sectors emitting the huge quantities of greenhouse gases. The investment decisions taken today will have a strong influence on climate during the next 50 years. Therefore it is very important to involve all countries in the post-2012 global and comprehensive cooperative regime. It should include differentiated commitments on the reductions of emissions, assistance in adaptation to climate changes, facilitation in transfer of technology as well as appropriate financing measures.

Mr. President,

Poland is a good example of a country where dynamic growth of GDP has not weakened the determination to reduce gas emission. Between 1995 and 2005 our GDP almost tripled while the gas emissions have decreased by 4%. Poland has also a good experience in financing the pro-ecological investments, including through ecological innovations, mobilizing domestic resources, transfer of technologies and adaptation actions. We are ready to share our knowledge with other countries. This is our strong commitment.

Thank you Mr. President.