

**ECOSOC 2004**

**High-Level Segment**

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**item 2: Resource mobilisation and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the Decade 2001-2010**

**Statement delivered by**

**H.E. Mr. Jakub T. Wolski, Under-Secretary of State, MFA**

**Head of the delegation of Poland**

Madam President,

First of all, let me express my appreciation for your outstanding leadership and involvement in the work of the Economic and Social Council.

I would like to thank the panellists, who made such an instructive and thought-provoking contribution to our discussions.

Poland fully associates itself with the statement of Minister Tom Kitt of Ireland presented earlier today on behalf of the European Union. Nevertheless, I would like to offer some additional comments.

Madam President,

The Secretary-General's reports stressed the urgent need to intensify efforts, both of the Least Developed Countries and development partners in order to achieve the objectives of the Brussels Programme of Action and other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

Since meeting the Millennium Development Goals by LDCs with their domestic resources becomes difficult, it is essential – as indicated by the Secretary General - to increase efforts at the national level as well as to enhance further the multilateral endeavours in the spirit of international solidarity.

Poland shares this conclusion and fully supports the efforts of the international community to mobilise resources for poverty reduction in the Least Developed Countries. Aware that the principal share of financing for the development of LDCs should come from domestic sources, we also recognise that mobilising additional external resources for their benefit is of vital importance.

We support the search for new instruments of poverty reduction and appreciate the latest initiatives coming from the donor community. Let me remind you that a few years ago Poland itself was looking for ways and means to reduce its enormous burden of external debt. One of the most successful tools was then the debt for environment swap, which released resources for investments in environmental protection thus contributing to improving the state of environment in Poland and at the same time reducing external debt. We believe that such a mechanism could be beneficial also for LDCs.

The Polish government agrees that economic growth and acceleration of development in the Least Developed Countries depends to a large extent on their share in the international trading system. The liberalisation of trade, regional integration and reforms should not be inconsistent with the long-term development needs of these countries.

Poland is fully convinced that the integration of the Least Developed Countries into the world economy should proceed in parallel with the consolidation of their democracy and the rule of law. The application of good governance standards and the building of strong institutions make up one set of requirements. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the empowerment of women, constitute another.

In this context Poland is deeply concerned with the implications for global development of the situation in failing states. This issue was raised during the Regional Conference organised in support of the work of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change in Warsaw in May 2004. Participants of this conference concluded, inter alia, that there is a necessity to formulate and apply a global strategy to deal with failing states.

Madam President,

Poland, as an emerging donor aims to increase the volume of development cooperation with the developing countries and those in the process of transition 10 times during the next three years, to the level of 0.1% GDP in 2006. The fact that the European Union is the largest donor of development assistance and the biggest contributor to multilateral trade related assistance programmes is an additional source of encouragement to adjust our policies, expand our activities in this area and finally reach the EU target for ODA.

Increasing the effectiveness of development cooperation requires responding to the needs of partner countries, simplifying and harmonising operational procedures and better co-ordination of activities. I'm convinced that our membership in the EU will give us a possibility to gain additional experience in this regard. Poland joined the other EU countries in implementing a harmonisation agenda for poverty reduction and is addressing it to the countries and sectors targeted in the Development Co-operation Strategy adopted by the Polish Government in October 2003.

Poland puts great emphasis on education, which we consider a basic requirement for development. We focus therefore our attention on technical assistance and human resources development, providing training and scholarships. We are also ready to share further our experience in transition to democracy and market economy.

Madam President,

As we know, the international community will review the results of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action in 2010, and in 2015 it will evaluate the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals. However, we already should be looking beyond the year 2015.

We need to start considering a new generation of policies and programmes, which would focus our attention on the future impact of demographic changes. Long-term forecasts indicate that whereas the population of the more developed regions will be declining and ageing, the population of the less developed ones will continue to rise at a robust rate. Another factor is the damaging impact of HIV/AIDS on the population structure in poor countries affected by this epidemic.

We strongly believe, that in order to mitigate the negative consequences of tensions resulting from globalisation and demographic transition we have to focus our attention and means to an ever growing extent not only on economic growth but also on resolving the social issues related to health, education, employment and ageing at all levels: national, regional and international. I am inclined to consider that our struggle to reach the Millennium Development Goals is just a testing ground for even fiercer challenges that loom ahead.

Thank you for your attention.