

**Delegation from
The Republic of Poland**

**Represented by
DGVS - KCUFS - WHS**

Position Paper for the United Nations Environmental Programme

The topics before United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are: I) Financing International Climate Technology Transfer; II) Sustainable Development in the Arctic; III) Promoting Resource Efficiency in Urban Development of the three aforementioned topics, Poland is a fully supportive member. Poland's, P. Marek Baranowski, is the director of the UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre, which he established in 1991. Evidence of Poland's support is Article 5 of the Polish Constitution, which states that Poland promotes sustainable development policies in order to protect the environment. After joining EU in 1994, Poland has been trying to reduce coal consumption from 90% to 75% by 2020 and hopes to shift to cleaner energy. The *Energy Policy of Poland until 2030 (EPP 2030)* framework was enacted to improve energy effectiveness, increase security of energy supplies and use of renewable sources of energy including biofuels, develop competitive fuels and energy markets, and limit the impact of energy industry on the environment. In addition to chairing COP14 (2008) and COP19 (2013), Poland was highly evaluated in domestic policies at COP19. Also, it has been noted that Poland is cooperating with France the host of COP20. As Poland's Minister of Environment and COP 19's President, Marcin Korolec stated, "Poland could bridge the gap between developing countries and developed countries in climate negotiation." The Republic of Poland will continue their role as a mediator in UNEP, and is looking forward to collaborating with other Member States on the issues.

I. Financing International Climate Technology Transfer

The Republic of Poland has taken firm and decisive actions on climate change, as well as strengthening the multilateral global climate process. *GREENEVO* an initiative project launched in 2009 by the Ministry of the Environment was designed to implement a strategy for technology transfer that was agreed on at COP14 (2008) hosted by Poland. The aim of this project is to assist and support Polish companies involved in the development of green technologies in their operation, and in the promotion of their unique products on the international market. Poland has provided their environmental technologies to over 10 developed and developing countries through *GREENEVO*, which contributes not only to sustainable ecology but benefits companies. In 2013, the domestic research showed financial improvements over 30% and increasing employment opportunities with the project. The Polish government secures its funding for *GREENEVO* from the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, whose most important task is to manage the effective and efficient use of both the National Fund and international funds. *GREENEVO* was highly evaluated at COP19, and has been praised as a perfect example for international transfer of technology, and supporting how ecology can be an effective way for both business and economic development. Poland has a desire to share its environmental technologies among other countries, approving resolutions *A/RES/67/203* and *A/RES/68/210* that recognize the difficulties for developing countries to commit to sustainable development. Republic of Poland encourages those developing countries to actively participate in sustainable development in accordance with *A/RES/68/220*, which emphasizes the importance of participation from those states.

II. Sustainable Development in the Arctic

UNEP has Poland's full support in protecting the environment of the Arctic region while promoting sustainable development, and promotes their scientific research to protect biodiversity of the region. The Republic of Poland as a permanent observer of the Arctic Council (AC) since 1998 and an observer in Barents Euro-Arctic council since 1993, focuses on diplomacy and science in the Arctic region. In 2012, Poland in an AC observer statement nominated themselves to become a board

member of Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks (SAON). SAON, established by AC and International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), fosters better global cooperation among governments, researchers and indigenous residents, in addition to promoting a sustainable and effective observing system in the Arctic region. In 2010, Poland participated in the AC Deputy Ministers Meeting in Copenhagen as an observer state and encouraged support for environmental protection and climate change mitigation in the Arctic region. Polish scientists have been researching climate and environment in Arctic for half a century including collaboration in the AC. Furthermore, in 2012, Poland adopted the Polish Arctic policy which is based on four factors: observation of existing international law; strongly respecting UN Conventions and The Law of the Sea; EU policy on the Arctic and co-operation with the AC; and domestically supporting public diplomacy related to Arctic issues. In 2013, Poland organized an international conference, the Arctic Science Summit Week; and launched its *GoArctic* campaign from 2015 to further diplomacy by increasing business opportunity and trade links with other Arctic countries. As one of the AC's permanent observers, Poland is an intermediary between Arctic and Non-Arctic member states.

III. Promoting Resource Efficiency in Urban Development

Poland fully endorses UN's principles regarding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), since the principle of sustainable development was mentioned in Article 5 of Polish Constitution. From January 2013, following the GA decision 67/555, Poland was selected as a member of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG), whose task was to prepare a proposal on SDGs. Poland has collaborated with 29 states to propose and outline methods for The Rio+20 outcome, *The Future We Want*. In 2014, the report (A/RES/68/309) was adopted, and the GA decided the proposal would be the base for integrating SDGs into the post-2015 agenda. As SDGs can reduce global poverty, Poland emphasizes the link between SDGs and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for developing countries. Also, as a country where women actively take many roles in the society, Poland urges the inclusion of women, youth, and other minorities to realize sustainable development. It has been 70 years since Poland historically achieved its democratic transformation, therefore Poland emphasizes the rule of law and good governance, to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction; for instance, a local government of the eastern Polish region autonomously promotes sustainable farming and housing. The central government respects those initiatives and firmly supports them. Within the EU, Poland has taken the important role as a mediator between the high and middle-income countries. Poland has domestically carried out energy reform using sustainable resources under its Long-Term Strategy for Sustainable Development. In 2011, the *Polish Energy Policy until 2030* was adopted, specifying energy saving in domestic industry, by establishing a certificate system as a market mechanism promoting the growth of energy efficiency and increasing public awareness through education, and an information campaign. Poland has been trying to enable the collaboration of efficient energy use and sustainable development in urban development, and focuses on Sustainable Consumption and Protection (SPC). The Republic of Poland therefore emphasizes the interconnection between energy efficiency, sustainable development and consumption. We are willing to share their experience with all Member States wishing to address the agenda issue in a productive and comprehensive manner.