

**Statement of the Republic of Poland****by Mr Robert Rostek****Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Abu Dhabi**on the occasion of the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNIDO

Abu Dhabi, 3-7 November 2019

**Mr President,****Mr Director General,****Excellences, Distinguished guests,**

Poland associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union on behalf of the European Union.

However, I wish to take this opportunity to highlight a few points which are of particular importance to my country.

**Mr President,**

At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the President of the 18th session of the General Conference, along with your bureau members. I am confident that under your guidance this session will achieve fruitful results. Let me assure you of Poland's readiness to cooperate with you in attaining the assumed goals of the GC.

**Mr President,**

Standing in front of you and distinguished delegates of the broad UN family it is important for me to provide you with a brief overview of the experiences of two-year Polish membership in the UN Security Council

coming to an end this year. This experience has emphasized the role of Poland as a founding member of the United Nations and a devoted member of the great international system of cooperation between nations and states.

It was in this spirit that during our membership in the UN Security Council we have put a very strong emphasis on strengthening and upholding international law in the context of maintaining peace and security. ~~There can be no peace and prosperity without the rule of law.~~

Poland has remained in the UN Security Council a consistent advocate of all those most affected by the consequences of armed conflicts, namely children, people with disabilities and members of religious minorities. This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the first ever UN Security Council resolution devoted to persons with disabilities in armed conflicts, both undertaken on the initiative of Poland. Being concerned about the surge of violence and religious hatred we strongly promote the fundamental value of the freedom of religion and enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation between ethnic, cultural and religious groups.

~~We strongly believe that these values are the foundations of the prosperous economic development for every country in the world.~~

**Mr President,**

We innovate, we connect and we transform the future of Poland by implementing the priorities of the Strategy for Responsible Development. This national strategy overlaps with the theme of the current Conference "Industry 2030 – Innovate. Connect. Transform our Future" and we strongly support the work of the UNIDO and its mission. We consider UNIDO's mandate to be clear and relevant both in the context of the

global development agenda and Poland's development cooperation strategy.

**Mr President,**

Poland wishes to underline the crucial role of circular economy in the inclusive and sustainable industrial development. We are proud of our recently adopted governmental Road Map for Action in this area. As industry generates 23 per cent of Polish GDP, we review and analyse new opportunities for development of "Sustainable industrial production". We are eager to take actions on "Sustainable consumption", which is often underestimated in the context of its contribution to the transformation in Circular Economy life cycle stage. We do not forget about "Bioeconomy", which is bound with the management of renewable raw materials and has untapped potential in Polish reality. Last but not least, we are ready to explore "New business models" creating possibilities for various market participants to function in circular economy. These four main blocks are carefully tied up together within the proper schemes for the required action for implementation, monitoring and circular economy financing.

**Mr President,**

Let me briefly summarize the Polish engagement with the UNIDO and what has happened in the sphere of our cooperation within the last 2 years since the GC in November 2017. During that period of time Poland actively took part in last Special Session of Vienna Energy Forum 2018, presenting its endeavours aiming at transformation of our energy-mix. Next, we financed, designed and launched the initial phase of the

ambitious project in Georgia with the heading "Strategies for transition of Georgian regions and communities towards sustainable energy future (STGSEF)". The report from the fact finding mission for that project is going to be presented soon and it shall constitute a solid base for the further action in this area. Being impressed by the outreach of the Bridge for Cities series of events Poland actively engaged in this year's conference in September. Representatives of various institutions from the Upper Silesia Region in Poland have actively presented their achievements in the field of various applications of the Industry 4.0 ideas and started working relations with the partners from the other countries. ~~We are convinced this event started a fruitful cooperation for the future.~~

Furthermore Poland keeps on supporting the idea of GMIS - Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit, common UNIDO and UAE initiative, We are involved in it since 2016, when we hosted the *GMIS Road-show* in Warsaw and organised, in the beautiful Castle <sup>of</sup> Chlewiska near Szydłowiec, <sup>in the Central Poland</sup> the special seminar on "Future of Manufacturing" dedicated to the middle income countries.

**Mr President,**

Polish government has recognized an intelligent reindustrialization as a high priority on its agenda. Among all the EU Member States, Poland has one of the largest shares of GDP coming from industry. Our experience has clearly shown that productivity and capacity to manufacture is the key to job creation and poverty reduction. In this context, we recognize the importance of the UNIDO – the only UN agency entrusted with a mission to promote sustainable industrial development worldwide.

In this respect it is to emphasize that Poland considers itself to be a committed and responsible Member State of the UNIDO. As the 17th largest contributor to the regular budget of the organization we always pay our Assessed Contributions in full amount and within the indicated deadlines. Furthermore, Poland continuously follows the policy to voluntarily renounce our share of Unutilized Balances of Appropriations and earmark it as a special purpose contributions to the Industrial Development Fund.

To conclude, Poland wishes to reiterate its commitment to the goal of inclusive and sustainable industrial development and we are looking forward to continue an intensive and effective cooperation with the UNIDO.

**Thank you Mr President**

