

**Statement by Mr. Jerzy Kwieciński**  
**Secretary of State, Ministry of Economic Development**  
**of the Republic of Poland**

on the occasion of the 17<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNIDO  
Vienna, 27 November – 1 December 2017

**Madame President,**

**Mr. Director General,**

**Excellencies, Distinguished guests,**

Poland associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of 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.

**Madame President,**

At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the President of the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 full support and cooperation.

**Madame President,**

I wish to reiterate Poland's firm commitment to 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.

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

**Madame President,**

Poland has already won a non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council for the period 2018–2019. Solidarity, responsibility and commitment are key words characterizing our approach to the UN's work. "Solidarity" is not only a name of the movement which triggered historic transformations in Poland. It is also a symbol of international cooperation without which the success of our transformation would have not been possible.

**Madame President,**

Poland sees the Agenda 2030 as a global and universal road map and at the same time a chance not only to make changes in the country, region and the world, but also to work together effectively – removing “silos”, creating synergies, increasing sustainability and leaving no one behind. The 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity to strongly link the strategic directions of development of different areas for building a sustainable future.

A key document that serves to implement the SDGs in Poland is the Strategy for Responsible Development, adopted in February 2017. The convergence of the Strategy and the SDGs is noticeable at the level of their objectives, areas and priority actions. We have chosen an integrated approach that ensures the coherence of the priorities of the new model of Polish development policy with the Agenda 2030, as well as joint management of both processes and a multi-sectoral partnership.

We expect that such an approach will primarily lead to reduce poverty, all kinds of social inequalities, improve quality of life, access to knowledge and education, increase competence, increase employment, improve health care, preserve the environment and build a strong social capital and increase its role in development.

Let me mention that of the main goals of our Strategy is to help to develop a new digital technology-based industries, capable of creating breakthrough products. It will be also possible to develop traditional sectors that, by implementing state-of-the-art production and management technologies, have a chance to move up the value chain.

**Madame President,**

Poland wishes to underline the crucial role of the circular economy in the sustainable industrial development. In this context we are deeply pleased with the recent UNIDO’s engagement in the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials.

EIP-RM is an international stakeholder platform that brings together representatives from industry, public services, academia and NGOs. Its mission is to provide high-level guidance to the European Commission, EU Member States and private actors on innovative approaches to the challenges related to raw materials. Poland is convinced that UNIDO’s engagement in the EIP RM will further enhance its positive impact on the industrial development in the EU and ahead, in particular through involvement of companies from developing countries.

**Madame President,**

In recent years we noticed the growing interest of Polish private sector in cooperation with UNIDO. It shows that this Organization has a potential to play an important role of a platform for dialogue between business partners from different countries and regions. It is our conviction, that integrating private sector into UNIDO activities and events fosters significantly mutually beneficial economic cooperation between countries and contributes directly to the achievement of the ISID.

**Madame President,**

Over 2017 Poland continued its engagement in a number of UNIDO Technical Cooperation projects. Furthermore, we developed numerous meaningful initiatives with UNIDO. Let me just briefly mention some of them.

Back in March, Polish delegation – composed of government and private sector representatives – took an active part in the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit in Abu Dhabi, which was co-organized by UNIDO and the United Arab Emirates. This summit becomes an important forum for experts and policymakers to discuss and shape the future of manufacturing, as well as provides a good opportunity for numerous Polish companies to expand networking opportunities.

A bilateral meeting between DG Li Yong and Prime Minister Beata Szydło during the Hannover Messe in April this year constituted an excellent opportunity to further discuss the possibilities for mutual cooperation between Poland and UNIDO in areas of industrial development and technology promotion.

This September delegation of the city of Poznań led by its Mayor, Mr. Jacek Jaśkowiak, took an active part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference of the „Belt & Road Initiative”.

Two UNIDO's Technical Cooperation projects financed from Polish voluntary contributions – one in Moldova, aiming to enhance local manufacturing capacity of solar thermal energy systems, and second in Tajikistan, aiming to create new jobs and food security – will be finalized before the end of this year. We note with satisfaction that Polish experts and companies have actively participated in implementation of these projects, displaying their expertise and technology.

Finally, Poland is a long term supporter of Vienna Energy Forum and this year's edition of VEF also enjoyed our financial support.

**Madame President,**

I am happy to announce that currently we are working fiercely with the UNIDO Secretariat to start and finance a new project in Georgia within the Country Programming Framework to be approved soon. First Polish voluntary contribution for this project have been already delivered.

Moreover, we start to work on the new more comprehensive approach to our UNIDO membership and hopefully we will be able to present our new initiatives very soon. Our intention is to mobilize more our existing potential stemming from the Polish industrial foundations, our expertise and training opportunities for the benefit of the recipient countries.

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

**Thank you for Madame President**