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*Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Republic of Poland I am honored to address the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development on ***Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda***. This session is the first one following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for the sustainable development. Therefore our deliberation should be an important intellectual input towards its successful implementation in the Agenda's demography related issues.

At the beginning, let me congratulate you, Madam Chair, on your election as President of the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development, and other members of the Bureau on their election.

*Madam Chair,*

The ICPD Programme of Action constitutes a platform for the present and future activity for the Polish Government. The population-related issues remain at the core of development, and demographic data are essential to achieve the objectives of the 2030 agenda.

Over the last 20 years, Poland has faced serious demographic problems, such as a low number of births and the decrease in fertility rate, which currently stands at 1,3 births per women, relatively high mortality rates compared with Western European countries and shorter life expectancy than the average in the European Union. According to the new forecasts of the Central Statistical Office, in 2030 the size of the population of Poland will have decreased by 1.3 million persons, followed by an increase in people over 60 years of age. Therefore, further negative changes in the age structure of the population and shortages on the labour market are to be expected. The forecast also points out the problem of stability of the social security system, which is further aggravated by mass economic migration of young Polish citizens undertaking the employment abroad, mainly in the EU countries. In 2014 the number of Poles abroad stood at 2.1 million which constitutes approx. 6% of the country's population, with the majority of them being in the mobile age (18-44years). The consequences of such significant population outflow in a short time are very complex and will most probably be noticeable in years to come.

In this situation, Poland is facing challenges which, include measures to improve the fertility of Polish women, limiting emigration of our citizens, creating conditions for their return as well as increasing the scale of labour immigration to Poland. While increasing fertility depends on the demographic policy instruments, which is of long-term character, migration is already part of the activities carried out by respective public administration institutions. They result from targeted immigration policy which, among others, defines the preferential legal regulations concerning the entry, stay and work in Poland for selected groups of migrants. The number of foreigners who held valid stay and residence permits, increased to almo



which counteracting gender based violence is an essential part. In recent years we have also been working intensely on empowering and supporting independence of women.

*Distinguished Delegates,*

The post-2015 era opens new chapter of possibilities and actions to accelerate and sustain

agreements ratified by Poland. Ministry of Health has undertaken many initiatives aimed at strengthening reproductive health of the population. The most important are: promoting reproductive health and preventing fertility impairment, especially connected with lifestyle; establishing the reference network of highly specialized healthcare providers that diagnose and treat infertility. In recent months, the Ministry of Health created a spe

situation of families in Poland shows that the lowest income was earned by couples with 3 or more children (PLN 807).

In order to improve the conditions for families, help parents achieve a better work-life balance and increase low fertility rate, the Polish government has adopted a series of measures since 2006, among them a one-time child birth grant. The family benefits system offers different forms of aid for families, including large families and single parents. In addition, in 2016 the government introduced **parental benefit** of PLN 1,000 per month for people who are not eligible for maternity allowance or maternity pay (e.g. unemployed persons, undergraduates, persons working under civil-law contracts) or compensation for the already received maternity allowance or maternity pay to reach this amount if the amount arising from other regulations were lower (e.g. farmers). Parental benefits would be paid for 52 weeks after a single or multiple birth irrespective of income.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, “**Family 500 Plus**” programme was introduced, which provides

existing perception of business, by the companies, through the prism of the lowest prices or the negative demographic trends. In view of this fact, as well as in the face of the depletion of existing growth factors, Poland needs a new model of economic development.

Given the current conditions and the needs of socio-economic development of the country and the challenges facing by Poland, the **Responsible Development Plan** (adopted by the Council of Ministers on 16 February 2016 r.) has been prepared. The plan envisages **the output of the five development traps** (middle income trap, lack of balance, average product, demographic trap, and weak institutions) through implementing **a new model of development**, based on five pillars: *reindustrialization; development of innovative companies; capital for development; foreign expansion; sustainable social and regional development*. **Sustainable social and regional development** means emphasis on inclusion in the development process, not only large urban areas but also the smaller towns and rural areas. The basis for the responsible development of Poland, which affects all pillars is **efficient state**. **The** responsible development is not only basing economic growth on **a solid foundation of economy**, but also **a multi-dimensional social solidarity** - between present and future generations, between regions, cities and rural areas or between employers and employees - the source of which is the concern for the common good .

*Distinguished Delegates,*

Poland has been implementing the policy **State ecological policy** of sustainable development since social and economic transformations. The role of climate policy is the Polish contribution to

Poland attaches great importance to environmental protection

