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Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Republic of Poland I am honored to address the 50th session of the

The Sustainable Development Strategy, which has been recently adopted by the Polish government, emphasises the importance of attracting to the Polish labour market migrant workers with desired skills, in light of the diminishing labour resources in Poland

Population policy requires long-term actions by the state, which enjoy wide public support, and an interdisciplinary approach. The Government Population Council, has prepared strategic documents to address these challenges. The Expert Group prepared the assumptions of the action programme in the area of population policy *Foundations of the Polish Population Policy*, which was subject to debate and assessment by the Government Population Council, and by the 2nd Demographic Congress, held in 2012.

Distinguished Delegates,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, opens new chapter of possibilities and actions to accelerate and sustain development. In order to counteract the observed negative demographic transitions including rapid ageing of the population and low fertility there are many actions within the public health and healthcare system domains, which should contribute to improve the situation. In Poland everyone has the **right for health** protection, all Polish citizens, regardless of their social or economic situation, have equal access to health care services financed by the public funds. The range of these services is defined by law. The results of epidemiological studies clearly indicate a systematic improvement in the health of Poles. There is a rising trend in life expectancy, the decline in overall mortality, the decline in mortality from most causes, and in infant mortality.

Currently in Poland there is an ongoing debate on **public health** and its crucial role for economic and social development of state. New legal frames were established by the Act of 11th September 2015 on public health and its operational policy paper - the *National Health Programme for 2016-2020*. It opens a new chapter in approach to the health and health-related quality of life of society. It is also a reply to the need for constant counteraction against negative epidemiological trends and increasing chronic and non-communicable diseases and disabilities in society. Moreover the Act on public health introduces coordination mechanisms to reinforce leadership in public health and increase efficiency. The *National Health Programme* is to support the existing health care system funded from the public budget and focused primarily on treatment of diseases with less attention given to preventive interventions. The Program attributes a more prominent role to publicly funded health promotion, preventive interventions and the concept of health in all public policies. Moreover the *National Health Programme* identifies operational objectives which contribute to the overall strategic objective, what is increasing life expectancy, improving health and health related quality of life, including **reproductive health**, and reducing social inequalities in health. Bearing in mind that the infant mortality rate together with the perinatal mortality rate

The Constitution of the Republic of Poland ensures special protection by the State over pregnant women. **Reproductive health** is a crucial element of the State health policy. Central and local government administration bodies provide citizens with a free access to methods and means of conscious procreation. During the last two decades, the range and

expectations as regards contraception indicates that primary factors determining the choice of a method are effectiveness, lack of adverse side effects, reversibility and acceptance. The Government of Poland strives to provide women during pregnancy and at labor with the best health services that match their expectations and the medical knowledge. The protection of women in the period of pregnancy, labor and postpartum is ensured in the national legislation and in international 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 undertaken within National Health Programme; establishing the reference network of highly specialized healthcare providers that diagnose and treat infertility. A significant initiative worth to be mentioned in this field is the

However the needs in this area are still significant. The *Departmental Programme for* *ujg Fgxgnqr ogpv qh Kpukvwkqpu qh Ectg hqt Ejknftgp Wpfgt vjg Cig qh 5 õOcñwejö* **õVqffngtö+ 4239*, is aimed at financing the establishing and operation of new childcare facilities, as well as supporting the existing ones. The amount of PLN 151 mln has been allocated for the Programme implementation in 2017. It is estimated that approx. 12 thous. of new childcare facilities will be established and approx. 43 thous. of existing ones will receive support for day-to-day operation.

On 1st April 2016, *Family 500 Plus Programme* was introduced, which provides **child-raising allowance** of PLN 500 per month for families for the second and each subsequent child for children aged 0 to 18, starts. The support is intended for the first child if the family income is no more than PLN ()(-29(im)-3(pleme)4(ntu d)-29(a)-5

The tools specified in the Act on the promotion of employment and labour market institutions, are such as activation benefits aimed at subsidizing employment, for example, of young parents who want to come back to the labour market after a break taken to bring up a child.

Madam Chair,

The Act of 16 November 2016 on **Re-establishing the retirement age at 65 and 60**, amending the Act on Retirement and Other Pensions from the Social Insurance Fund and certain other acts is based on the activity should come to an end ought to be made, to a greater extent, by the insured persons themselves. This could enable taking into account individual circumstances. Therefore, an insured person should be able to decide whether to exercise his or her right to retire at the age specified by the amended act or continue his or her professional career, thus postponing the moment of retiring. That choice is largely determined by the individual situation of the insured person as regards his or her health condition, position in the labour market, plans concerning the duration of rest following the end of his or her occupational activity, as well as certain expectations regarding the amount of retirement benefits to be received in the future.

Distinguished Delegates,

The concept of **the Agenda 2030** with its 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) recognizes that each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development. As a result, the Agenda has to take account of different national realities and capacities with respect of national policies and priorities.

Poland undertook concrete steps to **define a new development model**. We strive to effectively use our strengths and at the same time to create new advantages in the areas generating high added value, with more extensive and efficient use of knowledge and capital. A new vision of the development of Poland was institutionalized by the Polish authorities last February, when the Polish Government officially adopted *the Strategy for Responsible Development*. Based upon wide consultation with diverse state and civic institutions and versatile development taking into account its economic, social and environmental dimensions.

The main objective of the Strategy is the *growth of income of the Polish population, accompanied by an increase in social, economic and regional cohesion*, this is to improve the wealth of Poles and internal convergence of the process in its individual dimensions. The Strategy is comprehensive and constitute an **instrument for managing the main development processes** of the country, and **its implementation will support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Poland**.

The goals of the 2030 Agenda refer to all social, professional and age groups,

