

Statement by Poland
Intersessional meeting of the Human Rights Council
Human rights and the 2030 Agenda: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality
Geneva, 16 January 2019, 10h00

Mr. President,

- Poland attaches utmost importance to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We took an active part in the SDGs negotiations, paying particular attention to the linkages between development and human rights as a key driving force in the promotion and successful, people-centered implementation of sustainable development. We believe that the realization of human rights unlashes full civic potential in fruitful planning and implementation of the sustainable development at local, regional and state levels, ensuring that no one is left behind.
- To underscore its credibility and demonstrate determination to abide by the stipulations of the 2030 Agenda, Poland produced in 2018 its Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Agenda implementation at the High Level Political Forum on sustainable development.
- In the preparatory process we were fully committed to the principle of involving as wide range of stakeholders as possible, thus creating a social, professional and institutional network of partners for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It enabled us to enter into productive cooperation among public and private entities, non-governmental organizations, the scientific sector and civil society at various stages of planning and implementing development activities. A wide spectrum of stakeholders become not only participants, but also creators of development activities, this way strengthening their sense of joint responsibility for the course of practical action to be taken.
- The adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 and the beginning of its implementation coincided with the development and implementation of a new approach to development policy as set out in the medium-term Strategy for Responsible Development. In order to define the directions of the future social and economic policy, an in-depth macroeconomic analysis of Poland was carried out. Strengths and development potentials were determined. At the same time, key development gaps were identified thus making it feasible to eliminate developmental inequalities and social disproportions within the country.
- The analysis showed that for Poland the most important issues in relation to the SDGs are poverty reduction and ensuring sustainable development of cities and communities. It is equally important to ensure good quality education, gender equality and the reduction of inequality in the country. It also remains important to promote a peaceful and inclusive society by ensuring access to justice for all and by building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. As it transpires from the above, the 2030 Agenda implementation process constituted an ample opportunity to do a stocktaking of the situation and prioritize further activities, including those relating to lagging behind aspects of human rights implementation.
- As to tangible examples of human rights related programmes undertaken nationally and connected with the 2030 Agenda implementation, a number of specific initiatives can be mentioned. These include ensuring citizens' better access to properly organized justice. The idea

was to meet citizens' postulates by, inter alia, wider and more effective promotion of non-judicial methods of dispute resolution. Moreover preparation and implementation of harmonized statutory and organizational solutions improving the functioning of the justice system in the area of criminal law have also been carried out.

- Furthermore the Committee for Public Benefit has become a government administration body competent in matters of public benefit and volunteerism, including programming, coordination and organization of cooperation between public administration bodies and entities operating in the sphere of public benefit. At the same time, the National Institute of Freedom - Centre for Civil Society Development – has been established as an executive agency to manage funds and programmes supporting the development of civil society, including the newly established Fund for the Support of Civil Society Development.
- As to the Poland's on-going bilateral development cooperation, it is carried out in line with 2030 Agenda provisions. Its prime objective is to support sustainable socio-economic development of developing partner countries and their societies. It encompasses programmes aimed at reducing poverty, improve health of the population, enhance education and professional qualifications of the population, support democratization processes and state reforms, build modern state institutions, promote human rights, and foster civil society. It is based upon Poland's *Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for 2016-2020*. In addition, a part of Polish foreign policy, Poland's development cooperation is set in the framework of EU and global development policies, including support for the SDGs implementation.
- If the 2030 Agenda is to succeed, it has to be implemented holistically, reflecting the indivisibility and inter-dependence of human rights thus "leaving no one behind" and realizing the human rights of all.

Thank you for your kind attention.