**Sixth Intersessional Meeting of the Human Rights Council on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda**

Session 3: Leveraging human rights to combatting illicit financial flows and corruption through effective international tax cooperation and fiscal transparency

Speaker: Ambassador Zbigniew Czech, Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Madam Moderator,

At the outset let me thank the core group of the resolution for organising today’s meeting together with the Office of the High Commissioner. Many thanks also to you and the panellists for the insightful discussion.

In Poland’s view strong institutions, based on principle of good governance, are a prerequisite to sustainable development. For most countries, public finance raised through tax remains the most solid source of financing for the SDGs. Corruption or tax evasion not only weaken trust in governments, but also erode taxes leaving less money for investment.

 In recent years Poland has significantly improved the efficiency of its tax system. In just 8 years the value added tax revenue collected increased by almost 90 per cent. Corporate income tax increased over 180 percent. Poland has also introduced several modifications in tax policy such as tax reliefs, which translated into improved living conditions for citizens, especially those from lower-income groups. It is clear that without increased tax revenues it would have been impossible for Poland to introduce many of child welfare programs.

Now Poland is ready to share its experience with other countries to support them on their path to effective taxation. The Centre for Tax Solidarity operating within the Ministry of Finance coordinates tax cooperation projects with international partners to boost their domestic resource mobilization and enhance their capacity to achieve their own SDG-related targets.

To conclude let me underline that increasing efficiency of a tax system makes the system fairer for everyone and levels the playing the field. It is thus a concrete solution that can contribute to enhancing the social solidarity and delivering on the promise to leave no one behind.

Thank you.