



# REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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## 2023 ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

### General Debate

### “Building momentum towards the SDG Summit”

Statement by H.E. Mr. Waldemar Buda,  
Minister of Economic Development and Technology  
of the Republic of Poland

New York, 18 July 2023

Madam/Mister President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

There is less and less time left until 2030. We are now at the halfway point and must not lose sight of our common goal that due to current challenges remains distant. At the same time, we are at the turning point for the future with an open question: how to speed up sustainable development in such changing and challenging circumstances that we are facing now?

In 2017, Polish government adopted a development strategy that constitutes a response to the challenges our country faces in the 21st century. “The Strategy for Responsible Development” creates a new development model that is human-centred and aimed at empowering all social groups to benefit from the economic growth. At the same time, the strategy focuses on increasing cohesion in the social, economic, environmental and territorial dimensions.

Poland is a country of high ambitions and growing opportunities. The Polish economy has become a key European success story, with the country recording high levels of growth since the beginning of the economic transformation in 1989. Currently, an unemployment rate in Poland has dropped to a record low. We have been promoting innovation, technological progress, social justice and green transition. The model of sustainable development we follow is being positively verified by a continuous improvement of Poland’s socio-economic indicators, as well as our citizens’ conviction that their life simply gets better.

We are aware that a full implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires mobilisation of both public and private resources, as well as technology, know-how and creativity from all the society.

Globally, despite increasing volumes of capital being labelled as “sustainable”, we are not seeing sufficient progress in meeting SDGs. It is imperative that we develop common frameworks and standards that would clearly define and measure sustainable investments and thus prevent “SDG-washing”. The EU taxonomy is a good example of a regional-level regulation that defines environmentally sustainable business activities and sets direction for sustainable financing in an international area.

Let me now share some perspectives on recent global crises that reverse progress that we have made since 2015, including the ongoing conflicts, COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change. They have global repercussions affecting all three dimensions of sustainable development.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been more than a global health crisis, causing major social and economic fallout that we are still recovering from. Promoting long-term and innovative financing for sustainable development and spurring investments for public health, as well as green and just transition are crucial to ensure that a post-pandemic recovery is sustainable, and in the long run, makes us more resilient.

Recently, the Russian aggression against Ukraine has created one of the largest refugee crises of modern times and is causing food, energy and financial perturbations globally. Since 2022, in Poland, the principle of 'leaving no one behind' has turned into 'leaving no Ukrainian behind'. This has translated into hosting Ukrainians fleeing the war, providing them with access to health and work opportunities, as well as ensuring access to education for Ukrainian children in safe learning environments. Due to the war, Ukraine could lose 18 years of socio-economic achievements with substantive spill-over effect in other countries.

My last point tackles global solidarity. It is abundantly clear that developing countries and the world's poorest and most vulnerable people are bearing the brunt of many of these challenges, which are further exacerbated by climate change. Poland, as a member of the European Union, and the host of three UN Climate conferences, and most recently World Urban Forum (WUF11), is actively contributing to devise global solutions to these challenges and share our lessons learned, including those about just transition and sustainable urbanization. This year, we have also presented a General Assembly resolution on building resilience through infrastructure connectivity to put a spotlight on disaster risk reduction and resilience-mainstreaming in our development efforts.

The challenges we face today should strengthen our determination and commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. For this reason we call for enhancement of international efforts and development of a common approach of the international community to bring about transformative changes and to manage risks in a better way. The world as a whole needs strengthened resilience and reduced vulnerability to the subsequent shocks and disruptions. The SDG Summit in September 2023 must signal a genuine turning point in our approach.

Thank you.