

REPUBLIC OF POLAND
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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Interactive round table on
“Moving towards zero waste and sound management chemicals”
High-Level Segment
19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Check against delivery

S T A T E M E N T

by

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Under-Secretary of State

Chief Nature Conservator

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New York, May 12th, 2011

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset of my intervention let me emphasize that Poland remains strongly convinced that the CSD plays an important role in promoting sustainable development in an integrated way at the global level.

I would also like to underline that Poland fully associates itself with the statement of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland deeply believes that the waste management ought to be considered broadly, as a cross-cutting issue strictly connected to economic and social activity. There is a need to focus on the management of waste already generated and on the prevention of its generation as well. Therefore, the necessity of actions during the production and consumption process should be taken into account. It is crucial to ensure that as many as possible end-of-pipe sources are not regarded as waste, in particular when they are used again, i.e. re-use as products or when they become by-products. Poland recognizes the need of acting in compliance with the waste hierarchy, which gives a priority for prevention, before the re-use, recovery, recycling and disposal. Poland introduced, into the national legal system, environmentally friendly waste management measures concerning *inter alia* waste batteries and accumulators, end-of-life vehicles or waste electrical and electronic equipment or packaging waste.

We recognize the importance of the problem of municipal waste management. We have plans to reduce the pollution in wastewater discharging in the whole catchment area of the Baltic Sea. In order to address these issues we created two National Plans: the 2014 National Waste Management Plan and the National Plan for Municipal Wastewater Treatment.

Mr. Chairman,

Poland recognizes the importance of collective action in the area of chemicals and waste management, as well as the need to increase public awareness. The process of international cooperation should contribute to the effective and transparent regulations with the purpose of protecting humans and the environment from risk caused by chemical substances and waste, and, at the same time, create conditions for sustainable development and competitiveness of enterprises. In that context I would like to note that Poland, as part of the European Union, has gone through an intense period of establishing and implementing the new comprehensive EU chemicals system, REACH.

We also recognize the importance of implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) approved at the United Nation's level in 2002. The GHS is one of the main tools for handling chemicals safely and it could accelerate efforts to boost international trade and economic development, especially if one of the main obstacles in its implementation, namely insufficient availability in national languages, is overcome.

Poland welcomes progress already achieved in the worldwide implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM) and believes that the outcomes of the current CSD Session may be essential for further SAICM implementation. We have to be aware that we act in the UN year of chemistry, proclaimed to commemorate the anniversary of the Nobel Prize for Maria Skłodowska-Curie.

We would like to underline that Poland is active in the regional cooperation within Strategic Approach as a current SAICM Regional Focal Point for the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

Mr. Chairman,

Striving to increase *gross domestic product* (GDP) all necessary steps ought to be taken to decouple the economic growth from the use of natural resources and environmental degradation, especially waste generation and to improve the quality of life.

Thank you for your attention.