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REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



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**General Assembly
Twenty-First Special Session**

STATEMENT

by

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New York, 30 June 1999

Mr. President,

Distinguished **Delegates**,

May I begin by congratulating You on the election to the responsible post of President of the 21st Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Session is an important world event as it is the evidence of the appreciation of the international community for the activities aimed at the versatile development of nations and states. I am convinced that the present debate will give the possibility to assess the effectiveness of implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and specify methods of further activity without the need of altering the wording of the Programme.

The government of the Republic of Poland is guided by the universal values contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development - Cairo'94 in its efforts towards a dynamic economic development and social transformations. Referring to these values and her Constitution, Poland has undertaken complex social reforms. For the Polish nation, these are the undertakings designed to tackle the tasks of the 21st century.

Mr. President,

Demographic tendencies in Poland in the 21st century perspective bring challenges that should be met by the economy, which is still in the process of transformation. They concern most of all: conditions of family development and job security, health condition of the population and durability of inter-generation links in the ageing society.

At present, we experience the declining level of replacement of generations. The process of population ageing results mainly from the rapid drop in the fertility rate.

Mr. President,

The health condition of Poland's population prompted the adoption of the National Health Programme.

I would like to express profound gratitude to UNFPA for the financial support that permitted Poland to start very important research programmes concerning health promotion through the educational system and the protection of health of mother and child.

In 1999, the government started the National Programme of Counteracting Drug Addiction and the National Programme of Preventing HIV Infections and Care for AIDS Infected Persons. The "Environment and health" strategic programme adopts World Health Organization recommendations.

A project of efficient management in the health service system has been implemented owing to a World Bank loan.

Mr. President,

In 1998, the government of the Republic of Poland adopted a report on the situation of Polish families. It states unequivocally that only family can secure the optimal conditions for generation renewal and their biological, psychological and social development. The report says that the consolidation of the foundations of family functioning is the duty of the state.

The effort of working out and implementing a programme of the state pro-family policy was undertaken on the basis of these premises. The effort embraces such issues as:

- creation of solutions strengthening the material foundation of family functioning,
- protection of motherhood, health of infants and children in the growing stage,

- upbringing of the young generation respecting the right to life as well as social human rights,
- promotion of the culture of responsible procreation.

These activities are already being implemented.

Women and mothers have a special role in the family. Women devoted to motherhood and family life should have the opportunity to materialize their own social aspirations and those choosing professional career the possibility of squaring it with family life and motherhood.

The equal rights of women and men are guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. Non-governmental women's organizations have been operating on a broad scale.

Mr. President,

Senior citizens can and should have their place in the family and society. We should, therefore, search for solutions that will permit to preserve the inter-generation links and solidarity of the society. We hope that the system of pension insurance currently built in Poland will fulfil the task in the material scope. It consists of an element of money saving for the old age and thus, serves the consolidation of the attitude of prudence.

The cultivation of family links will promote respect for senior citizens and utilization of their experience and wisdom also in social life.

Mr. President,

Universal and modern type **education** preparing for life and work in society is the condition for the development of each human being and civilizational progress.

The started programme and organizational reform and also the indispensable increase of public spending should permit the education of youth in secondary and higher school at a level achieved in the European Union countries. The reform refers to solutions already practised in the western countries.

Mr. President,

Poland is becoming an increasingly attractive country for immigrants. She shapes her **international migration policy** in line with international conventions and agreements. Consequently, Poland has recently accepted a group of refugees from Kosovo to the best of her possibilities.

The Constitution of the Republic of Poland provides for the use of political asylum by foreigners. The shaping of law regulating various aspects of international migration will be connected with Poland's access to the European Union.

Mr. President,

In conclusion I would like to stress that Poland's representatives actively participate at the international forum in the work related to the assessment of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

Poland undertakes a number of programmes, which despite the difficulties of the transformation period, should accelerate the development of our country.

Poland counts on the continuing support of the United Nations in her endeavours. At the same time we declare our readiness to cooperate with the Organization in its quest for peace and prosperity in the world.

Thank you very much