



# Ministerstwo Klimatu i Środowiska

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Departament Spraw Międzynarodowych

## National Statement of Poland UNEA 6

*Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Today, the world faces many environmental challenges, notably the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, as well as limited access to non-renewable resources. This situation makes environmental issues more than ever a subject of concern and action, placing them at the heart of public and political discourse.

Poland is motivated to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and meeting the needs of the current generation's good quality of life while minimising risks to the well-being of future generations.

Development of a **new clean and reliable energy system** is the greatest challenge on our way towards climate neutrality. We are increasing the use of zero-emission energy sources. Poland is one of the champions of renewable energy sources in Europe and we continue the development of nuclear energy. We are convinced that these two energy sources can not only cut emissions but also enhance energy security in Europe.

We cannot disregard the change in the way people think about sustainable development. The implementation of pro-environmental measures must go hand in hand with safeguarding the needs of individuals, in order to maintain social acceptance of necessary transitions.

Cities and towns are centres of social activity, therefore their adaptation to inevitable climate change is critical to the overall resilience of the society. At the national level, we undertake joint actions and projects with local governments such as developing urban adaptation plans for the largest Polish cities and an initiative "**Climate-friendly cities**" where we support the pro-climate transformation of cities, including increasing resilience to climate change.

Poland has a **rich and unique nature** and our biodiversity is among the richest in Europe and needs to be protected. Poland is also very proud of its **forests**. It is one of the most valuable natural resources, and the government is

enhancing its protective measures to keep them in good state for future generations.

Nature has a lot to offer when it comes to tackling climate change. It is hard to overestimate the role of forest ecosystems and wetlands in mitigating climate change and adapting to it. Appropriate land and forest management contribute to preventing desertification, improving the quality and availability of water and protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

In Poland we take due care of natural resources, including through the establishment of various nature conservation forms. With their various environmental, but also social roles and purposes, they all serve the greater goal of protecting common natural heritage for future generations.

Biodiversity has also a very important role to play in mitigating climate change and preventing the spread of global poverty. We are interdependent with the nature. It can help us if we help it. With growing scientific evidence and political and social awareness, we understand that proper management of ecosystems, such as marine areas, wetlands and forests, remains an effective solution for mitigating climate change due to their high sequestration potential, while well-managed and protected greenery helps retain life-giving water in the soil.

Let us remember that no matter how great our ambitions are, the goals we set for ourselves should be achievable and reasonable. Otherwise, they will not translate into effective actions and results. Therefore, I urge that this year's meeting prompts all of us to implement these key actions to adapt and mitigate the impact of climate change by protecting the biodiversity that is our common heritage.

*Thank you for your attention.*