

**Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe"  
Kiev, Ukraine, 21-23 May 2003**

**Item 11: Education for sustainable development**

**STATEMENT BY MR. KRZYSZTOF SZAMALEK,  
SECRETARY OF STATE, POLAND**

Madam Chair,  
Distinguished Colleagues,

Poland welcomes the adoption of a Statement on Education for Sustainable Development. We consider it as our clear commitment to promoting education at all levels, from the very beginning to higher education. Together with informal education activities they constitute a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development by future generations and are an essential tool for good governance and a driving force for further changes in Europe.

Poland has prepared its own Strategy for Environmental Education, and the final version of that document was adopted in 2000. It was then published and submitted to the entities responsible for education and public awareness in Poland. In accordance with the title of the document, education for sustainable development entails the following major objectives:

- developing full awareness and stimulating public interest in mutually related economic, social, political and ecological issues;
- enabling each human being to acquire knowledge and skills necessary to improve the state of environment;
- creating novel behavioural patterns as well as shaping individual, group and social attitudes, values and beliefs which carry concerns for the quality of the environment.

In 2003, activities were launched to adapt the provisions of the two documents to:

- changes in the socio-economic life in Poland (including the reform of the education system),
- Poland's adoption of Agenda 21 for Education for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region,
- the decisions made at the World Summit in Johannesburg.

Madam Chair,

Drawing on the experiences gained in developing the two domestic documents: "National Environmental Education Strategy" and "Programme for Environmental Education", as well as on the experiences related to the implementation of Baltic Agenda 21 in the field of education, Poland declares its willingness to co-operate in the process of development and implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development.

Thank you Madam Chair.