

**Mrs Agnieszka Bolesta, Undersecretary of State
on behalf of Mr. Jan Szyszko,
Minister of the Environment**

**Education for the sustainable development, achievements, challenges,
future actions**

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I. Introduction

- The concept of sustainable development has a very important place in Polish legal documents (Constitution of the Republic of Poland, The 2003-2006 National Environmental Policy, The Poland's 2025 Long-term Sustainable Development Strategy).
- Implementation of the principles of sustainable development requires the contribution of global and well educated society, such education should be assured by well-organised education for the sustainable development.
- The UN/ECE strategy on Education for the Sustainable Development is an essential tool for promoting and implementing the principles of sustainable development through education.
- Implementation of the Strategy, as well as participation in regional and global initiatives for sustainable development education, such as UNESCO Decade for Sustainable Development, should constitute an important element in the activity of every country.

II. Achievements

1. Implementation of the first phase of the UN/ECE Strategy in Poland on the Education for Sustainable Development is going to the right direction.

- The Strategy is translated into Polish language and available for the general public.
- The Polish Working Group for the Education Decade on the Sustainable Development has been established. Its actions are carried out under honorary patronage of the UNESCO Polish Committee.

The Group includes representatives of the key institutions dealing with various aspects of sustainable development (Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives of

scientific communities, non-governmental organisations, UNESCO Polish Committee).

The Group's objective is to create a wide platform to exchange information on the Education Decade, as well as to initiate and undertake actions aimed at implementation of the UN/ECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development, building awareness of the social, economic, cultural and environmental issues.

- There are activities under way on preparation of the national plan for implementation of this Strategy.

2. In care about the condition of secondary forest educational system, but first of all, about proper preparation of graduates to work as a forester, 11 secondary forest schools has been taken under supervision of Minister of the Environment.

III. Challenges and future actions

1. Comprehensive approach to the concept of education for the sustainable development is necessary.

The concept of ecological and environmental education is widespread. Numerous institutions, organisations, schools and centres in Poland carry out educational actions, with a special emphasis on natural environment and its protection.

However, education still lacks appropriate reference to the fields, which are becoming more and more extensive, and which are connected with sustainable development, such as human rights, health, cultural diversity, urban and rural development, production and consumption patterns.

Wider look at these issues is necessary, as well as complementing the concept of environmental education with social and economic learning fields, connected with the sustainable development.

2. In order to effectively implement the Strategy, the cooperation between all interested parties, especially between the education and environment sectors, is necessary.

The most important, in formal education is an active involvement of education authorities in promotion of sustainable development and implementation of these issues into education programmes on all levels of formal education.

3. Assuring appropriate materials, tools and measures is a key aspect which conditions the effective education for sustainable development.

It is necessary to provide high quality, factual educational materials. Their wide dissemination will promote examples of so called good practice, facilitate access to information and educational materials which include infrastructure. These objectives may be accomplished with the involvement of specialised personnel.

The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management has been operating in Poland for years. It has financial resources at its disposal, from environmental charges and fines. The Fund co-finances many undertakings in the scope of environment protection, including educational activity. It provides support for the education for sustainable development, which includes such actions as creating educational materials, publications, development of office base, producing television and radio educational programmes.

4. Poland welcomes with satisfaction the common statement on education a for sustainable development by the Ministers of Education and of the Environment of the UN/ECE Region that confirms the importance of the education for sustainable development in creating better future, and supports the continuation of actions aiming at further implementation of the Strategy.

Thank you for your attention.