Madam Chair,
Distinguished Colleagues,

Poland would like to express its full support for the initiative of UNECE Environmental Partnership Strategy for EECCA countries, and welcomes the draft document “Strategic framework” elaborated to this end.

The Strategy identifies most important areas for actions for the environment and partnership, and emphasizes a need for ecosystem approach. We perceive the Strategy as a base for further formulation of Plan of its Implementation and Partnership, to which Poland would also bring contribution, keeping in mind our commitments expressed in draft Ministerial Declaration. We can already respond to some of them today.

In the area of Mechanisms for Mobilizing and Allocating Financial Resources, Poland would like to offer its voluntary input in the form of technical assistance for further development and strengthening the institutional network in EECCA countries for financing protection of the environment, through organizational and substantive experiences sharing, including debt-for-environment swap and the implementation of “polluter-pays” principle. As Poland has a very well established system of debt-for-environment swap, successfully functioning for over 10 years in the form of institutionalised State ECOFUND, our good experiences would help some EECCA countries in their work with creditor countries, to develop their initiative, recently undertaken by Georgia. We offer also a technical assistance in environmental law enforcement by providing training for environmental inspectors.

I wish also to propose that, during the process of developing the Implementation Plan for the Strategy, we should pay particular attention to the following challenges:

Firstly, to complete the work on formulation of National Strategies for sustainable development and inclusion poverty reduction strategies, where applicable, in accordance with individual country’s national priorities;

Secondly, to start the process of elaboration of the Implementation Plan for National Strategies for Sustainable Development by particular countries, to make possible the beginning of its implementation by 2005, accordingly to Chapter X of Plan of Implementation of WSSD at Johannesburg;

Thirdly to work further on indicators for sustainable development by countries at the national level at different levels of management, and their application for statistics and better planning of future activities and their implementation;

Fourthly, to monitor the integration of the environmental policies with social and economic aspects of sustainable development, adequately to priorities of individual countries.
We understand, however, that the Strategy is not a closed document. We see that there are still some important linkages missing in it. For example, in its “Key objectives and areas for action - Integrating of Environmental Considerations into Development of Key Economic Sectors”, industry sector is missing. We will have to fill this gap. Another area of our particular concern should be the better incorporation into our Strategy of social and economic pillars of sustainable development.

Thank you Madam Chair.