



REPUBLIC OF POLAND

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**National Statement by H.E. Mr. Krzysztof Szczerski,
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to the United Nations in New York
Head of Delegation**

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Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is both an honor and a privilege to stand before you today at the World Summit for Social Development here in the vibrant city of Doha. I would like to begin by extending our deepest gratitude to the State of Qatar for its warm hospitality, impeccable organization, and unwavering commitment to fostering global dialogue on social progress.

Over the past decade, the world has entered a period of profound transformation. The scale and pace of current developments are clearly greater than in previous years. The forces driving these changes are increasingly and commonly described as global megatrends. Among them, we recognise in particular population ageing, climate change, as well as automation, digitalisation and the rapid spread of artificial intelligence, collectively constituting a technological revolution. These trends affect every country and every society, although their impact may vary.

Let me now turn to Poland's own experiences—lessons shaped by transformation, resilience, and a commitment to inclusive development.

Poland has undergone a far-reaching socio-economic transformation in the thirty years since the Social Summit in Copenhagen. In 1995, population ageing was not yet considered a major concern, climate change was only beginning to attract scientific attention, and technological development, while evident, was not prominent in global discussions. At that time, Poland faced a number of challenges common to many states: poverty, structural unemployment, informal employment, lack of adequate social protection for several population groups and pronounced social inequalities.

Poland successfully addressed these challenges while maintaining economic growth and can provide an example of how to act effectively in these areas. Today, Poland ranks among the European Union countries with the lowest proportion of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, holding fourth place among the EU27.

One important example of Poland's recent reforms is the new Act on the Labour Market and Employment Services, which entered into force on 1 June 2025. Its objective is to build a modern, accessible and more equitable labour market that responds effectively to demographic, technological and social challenges.

Another strategic and long-term direction of Poland's social development is the strengthening of support for persons with disabilities and the creation of an inclusive environment, including in the digital sphere. All measures undertaken in Poland are based on the principle that persons with disabilities are full citizens entitled to equal rights.

In response to the growing digitalisation of work and the increasing role of new technologies in how work is performed, Poland has begun the process of amending its national legislation to ensure that persons working through digital platforms have an appropriate employment status consistent with the reality of their work, and that they can fully exercise their labour and social rights.

Poland has made family support a national priority. Its objective is not only to ensure social security but also to create conditions facilitating labour market participation. The support system includes financial instruments, development of childcare services for children below the age of three, as well as programmes

enabling parents to return to work and reducing childcare fees. Total public spending on family policy in 2025 reached approximately 22.5 billion EUR.

These measures represent only selected examples of Poland's actions.

The social challenges highlighted in the Doha Political Declaration of the World Social Summit, within the Second World Summit for Social Development, cannot be addressed by any single country alone. A renewed social contract must rest on solidarity, dialogue and international cooperation. Our shared objective must be social development that excludes no one, meets the needs of all groups and builds the foundation for a just and resilient future.

The international community must be prepared for the adverse consequences of megatrends, and must deepen cooperation and the exchange of best practices to mitigate their effects. Poland stands ready both to share its own experience and to learn from others.

Thank you.