

**REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



9 EAST 66th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10065

TEL. (212) 744-2506

*Check against delivery*

Plenary debate of the High-level meeting on  
the comprehensive review of the progress achieved  
in realizing the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS  
and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS

8 – 10 June 2011

**STATEMENT**

by

**Mr. Adam Fronczak**

**Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Health**

**Poland**

New York, 9 June 2011



*Mr. Secretary General,  
Madam President,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Poland, I would like to thank you for organizing this very unique global session at the Headquarters of the United Nations. It is an honour for me to share the Polish experience with all of you here, where the world has come together to review the progress and to plan the future course of the global AIDS response. I am proud that Poland has been given this great opportunity to provide its input to a new declaration, which, I am positive, in the incoming years will help the world fulfil the ambitious commitment of „Zero New Infections – Zero Discrimination – Zero AIDS Related Deaths“.*

*Please let me present the HIV and AIDS situation in Poland as it is today, three decades into the AIDS pandemic, ten years after the adoption of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and five years after the adoption of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. It must be underlined that thanks to international collaboration, enhanced coordination and intensification of efforts on the national level, and despite financial restrictions, Poland has been continuously moving forward in coping with issues related to HIV. I would like to recall that my country, has always been very active on the international fora, and was one of the founders of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, the governing body of the UNAIDS. I am extremely proud to say that Poland was elected its vice-chair for 2011. One of our goals is to draw the attention of the UNAIDS Programme and Member States to the need for strengthening the activities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. All projects that aim at reducing the rapid spread of HIV in that region will have a positive impact on the situation of HIV/AIDS in the whole world.*

*Due to the fact that we are constantly facing changing epidemiological trends, our efforts to maintain effective, equitable and sustainable HIV responses have to be based on a stable and coherent state strategy independent of political influences. The Polish policy has been developed according to the “Three Ones” recommendations. That is why we have one key document entitled: “The National Program for Combating AIDS and Preventing HIV Infections” which serves as the most important instrument of the HIV/AIDS fight and prevention. We have one agency of the Ministry of Health, the National AIDS Centre, that coordinates activities specified in the National Program. To be more effective and to meet the international standards in responding to the complex social, health and development challenges inherent in HIV, Polish multisectoral response includes government ministries, civil society, people living with and affected by HIV, international partners and the private sector.*

*International standards for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support significantly contributed to the Polish success in reaching and maintaining the stable epidemiological situation. Thanks to the implementation of regulations that recommend a voluntary and free-of-charge HIV test for each pregnant woman and guarantee of a stable implementation of antiretroviral prevention in justified cases, the ratio of vertical*

*infections in Poland decreased from 23% before the year 1989 to less than 1% now. By nearly eliminating the vertical transmission of HIV, we are close to achieving one of the goals set up in the Declaration of Commitment. Because of the full access to ARV drugs after an exposure to HIV, no case of such an infection has ever been registered in Poland. The network of Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centers that operate according to the international standards, guarantees that Poles may take an HIV test anonymously and free-of-charge and at the same time receive professional client-oriented counseling. I am sure that thanks to the sustained development of VCT centers, Poland will accomplish the aim of reducing the rate of undiagnosed HIV infections. It has to be underlined that successful implementation of many prevention programs would not have been possible without close and fruitful cooperation between the government and non-governmental organizations, as well as people living with HIV and AIDS.*

*Our biggest pride is the successful fulfillment of the global commitment of universal access to antiretroviral drugs for PLWHA. Let me state that since 2001, within the framework of the health priority programme of the Ministry of Health, ARV therapy is offered to every patient who fulfils the certain medical criteria.*

*Thanks to this strategy Poland has achieved a significant decrease in the number of AIDS cases. Patients with HIV live longer and with a higher quality of life, which enables them to re-establish their social and family roles.*

*Nevertheless, my country, like any other, has to face challenges. One of them is the struggle to secure the continuity of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in the era of the global crisis. The second is the accurate adoption of preventive measures to guarantee that they closely answer to rapidly changing epidemiological trends.*

*All our actions are always focusing on the human rights protection and stigma and discrimination eradication aspect. For that, we seek the participation of the civil society: people living with HIV/AIDS, NGOs, representatives of key populations (MSM, injecting drug users, young people), human and patients rights organizations.*

*I am convinced that we all gathered here, at the 2011 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS, will continue to put all our efforts on achieving the goals set up in the new political declaration we are going to adopt here. The global solidarity and partnership will lead to obtaining universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for everybody. Poland stands ready to cooperate in achieving this global challenge.*