



REPUBLIC OF POLAND
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

THE 53rd SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
New York, 2-13 March, 2009

**General debate “ Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace
for the twenty-first century”**

**Statement by Mr. Adam FRONCZAK,
Under - Secretary of State in the Ministry of Health
of the Republic of Poland**

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I wish to express my appreciation to you Mr. Chairman and other members of the Bureau for your commitment and efficiency in conducting the work of the 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Mr. Chairman,

While supporting the statement made by the Czech Presidency on behalf of the European Union I wish to add a few comments. At the beginning, however, I would like to emphasize that according to the position of the Polish Government any reference made to the issue of sexual and reproductive health and rights does not constitute an encouragement to promotion of abortion as a way of women empowerment and gender equality.

Mr. Chairman,

As I have mentioned during the session of the High Level Round Table, the Constitution of the Republic of Poland provides that men and women have equal rights in family, political, social and economic life. The Polish Government still pays more and more attention to ensure equal treatment between women and men. *Gender mainstreaming* policy is systematically introduced at all levels of state administration, in accordance to the goals of the Beijing Declaration. With support of comprehensive projects set up to change social consciousness regarding sexual stereotypes, on the one hand we develop patterns to reconcile the roles of women and men within families, work and private life and, on the other hand, we strengthen the position of women in particular in the labor market.

Projects on increasing the activity of women in the labor market acquire special significance, in particular nowadays while every country, including Poland, are facing the negative effects of the financial crisis. One of the Polish projects titled "The social and economic activation of women at the local and regional level" aims to promote the model of a modern society in which women and men are equal participants. The program which consists of several modules provides *inter alia* the nationwide media campaign named: "Equal opportunities in the labor market", the publicity campaign on gender pay gap, the prevention campaign on the older than 50-years' old women professional deactivation as well as the equal opportunities campaign.

Mr. Chairman,

In our assessment promoting equality, particularly gender equality and partnership, should be a primary concern of policies and programs to combat the HIV / AIDS pandemic. I wish to stress that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration, tasks based on "The Programme of Action on Population and Development" adopted in Cairo in 1994, objectives within the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, have influenced the constant progress in the field of health care in Poland. One of unquestionable examples of this progress is a holistic approach towards epidemic-related problems, which is reflected in a wide accessibility of advanced treatment, care and support, which has been always offered for people living with HIV/AIDS in Poland.

Mr. Chairman,

Please be assured of Poland's commitment to the full and swift realization of the agenda of this session. We are looking forward to working with you and other delegations to achieve our goals.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.