

Poland's national statement at the 53 session of the ICPD

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Republic of Poland I am honored to address the 53^d Session of the Commission on Population and Development, devoted to *Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic*.

At the beginning, let me congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as President of the 53^d Session of the Commission on Population and Development, and other members of the Bureau on their election.

The fifty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development, comes at the time of an unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, than the Polish delegation express solidarity to all countries affected by the pandemic, as well as condolences and sympathy to all the families of the victims of COVID-19.

We express concern that the COVID-19 pandemic presents a threat to human health, safety and well-being, that it has unprecedented and multifaceted effects, including the severe disruption to sustainable development, global trade and travel, and food and agricultural systems, that it exacerbates inequalities, and that it is expected to have a devastating impact on the food security, nutrition, health, livelihoods and dignity of the human person. The poorest and most vulnerable are the most affected by the pandemic and that its impact will have negative repercussions for achieving sustainable development in economic, social and environmental dimensions, in particular in developing countries, including countries in special situations and middle income countries, making the prospect of eradicating poverty, hunger and all forms of malnutrition as well as achieving food security and sustainable agriculture and ensuring healthy lives by 2030 more difficult.

The 53^d Session of the Commission on Population and Development comes at a very challenging time and coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The historic

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The program attributes a more prominent role to publicly funded evidence-based health promotion and prevention, and the concept of health in all public policies. Moreover the *National Health Program* identifies operational objectives which contribute to the overall strategic objective, what is increasing life expectancy, improving health and health related quality of life, including reproductive health, and reducing social inequalities in health. The extension of the Program is under consideration.

The Constitution of the Republic of Poland ensures special protection by the State over pregnant women.

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ensuring equal conditions of competition on the EU single market and eliminating barriers particularly burdensome for Polish exports in access to non-EU markets.

The consequence of Poland's accession to the European Union is that agriculture is covered by the regulations of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). EU CAP instruments are crucial in promoting sustainable food production and supporting smallholder farmers.

Poland is marked by a significant share in the area of agricultural land (8%), the number of farms (13%) and the number of people employed in agriculture (19%) in the whole European Union. The share of people employed in the agricultural sector (10.5%) is more than 2 times the EU and OECD average. At the same time, the diversification of employment in rural areas is advancing. Since 2004, Poland has recorded one of the largest reductions in the number of people employed in agriculture in the European Union.

The planned measures should result in the improvement of the area structure in agriculture. An

overweight and obese children, including 80 thousand with obesity. The generation of today's teenagers will live shorter than the generation of their parents due to complications related to overweight.

Promoting a healthy lifestyle among adults as well as children and adolescents is considered to be one of the most crucial priorities, which will result in a reduction in the percentage of overweight and obese people. The education of children and youth with regard to physical fitness (including obesity), nutrition and nutritional safety is integrated with the sustainable development of the country in the light of the 2030 Agenda.

Health education has been included in the priorities of education as well as compulsory sets of educational goals and content of teaching determined in core curriculum for all types of schools - primary and secondary. It is a didactic and educational process in which students learn how to live in order to maintain and improve their own health and create a health-beneficial environment, and, in the case of an illness or disability, as well as student's activity in the actions taken by the school actively participate in its treatment, cope and reduce its negative effects.

The importance and significance of compulsory physical education classes is emphasised in Art. 28 of the Education Law Act. The Ministry of Education (MEN) supports activities associated with promoting physical activity of children, every year engaging in the celebrations of the European Week of Sport, which in Poland is coordinated by the Ministry of Sports. MEN sends information concerning this important initiative to Regional Boards of Education to enable them to influence the undertaking of active lifestyle by students throughout the entire year by means of encouraging schools to participate in the initiative.

Proper nutrition is another factor, apart from physical education, which has a significant impact on the health of children and youth. With regard to the latter, provisions of the law govern the issues associated with the foods offered by school shops and canteens in order to reduce high-energy foods in the diet of children and youth as effectively as possible and thus shape proper eating habits.

Ministry of National Education introduced to **the 2019-2023 Multiannual Government Program Meals at School and at Home** (module 3) on the equipment for school canteens (cooperation with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy). It was planned that the implementation of the Program will activate local governments to prepare healthy meals at schools and improve the conditions for students to eat breakfast and lunch. The provisions also make it possible to take into account the situation of children who have certain recommendations regarding e.g. diet, pursuant to Art. 155 of the in order to provide children with appropriate care, nutrition and education and care-related methods during the stay in a public kindergarten and school. The child's parent shall provide the headmaster with data considered relevant by them with regard to the child's health, diet and psychophysical development.

From the 2017/2018 school year, each school has a combined educational and preventive program, which includes content and activities addressed to students, teachers and parents. Since 1 September 2019, schools have been obliged to make an annual diagnosis on the basis of which they set up the program. The diagnosis concerns the developmental needs of students in the school environment.

MEN cooperates with the National Centre for Agricultural Development - the coordinator of the implementation of the **Program for Schools** in Poland, established by the European Commission under the Common Agricultural Policy. In the aim to change the eating habits in children by increasing the proportion of fruit, vegetables, milk and milk products in their daily diet and promoting a healthy diet. Educational materials supporting the implementation of educational activities by primary schools. A package of educational materials has been prepared, including handbooks for teachers and parents, a brochure for children and 4 educational films for schools.

On the basis of the Cooperation Agreement between the Minister of National Education, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Sport and Tourism on the promotion of health and prevention

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According to the estimates 9 million tons of food is wasted annually in Poland, i.e. an average of 235 kg of food per capita. On September 18th 2019 the food waste prevention regulations came into force in Poland, according to which large shops and wholesalers must sign an agreement with a selected non-governmental organisation and provide it with food free of charge. Additionally, since October 2013 there is a possibility to deduct VAT by all Public Benefit Organization donors.