High Level Segment, COP16
9th of December 2010, Cancun, Mexico

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Statement by

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Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Poland

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates,

Let me begin by thanking Her Excellency, Minister Patricia Espinosa and the Government of Mexico for their incredibly warm hospitality. What we are experiencing here in Cancun is an atmosphere for honest, transparent and inclusive negotiations about one of the most important and difficult issues of our times – Climate Change. One of the crucial achievements we have accomplished thus far is the rebuilding of confidence and trust, enabling constructive approaches which create opportunities for moving forward.

We have come here from all over the world, all with one purpose – to ensure the sustainable future of generations to come. It would be irresponsible to leave this Conference without establishing a solid basis for ensuring such a future. It would be unfair to our youth and to those who would suffer from our inaction.
After COP 14 in Poznan the Parties succeeded in attaining the objective of finding common ground - launched the Adaptation Found and the Poznan Technology Transfer Strategy. The next step must be made now, one which would establish a solid basis for mitigation and adaption actions for both developed and developing Countries. A balanced outcome of this conference is within our reach.

Real and sustainable mitigation efforts are possible. Poland, as a Party to the Kyoto Protocol and a Member State of the European Union is not only meeting its commitments, but also proving that de-coupling of emissions and economic growth can be achieved through sound policy, innovative technology and the will to act. Our economy doubled its output, while GHG emissions went down by nearly 32%. There is no doubt, that ambitious accomplishments throughout the world can be achieved. When making decisions, let us not forget the nature of the problem we are facing: it is

global in scope and needs to be addressed by all actors. We need to launch global mitigation and adaptation actions as soon as possible.

With the right political momentum in Cancun we can carry out what is required. We have an opportunity here to establish the right institutional framework and see it developing throughout 2011 into a regime, which will eventually lead us to the 2°C goal. With the excellent guidance of the Mexican Presidency and both the AWG LCA and AWG KP Chairs, we have regained trust in the UNFCCC process, which is of great importance to us. Today's decisions need to ensure that the UNFCCC process will maintain the level of support from the public it needs throughout next year and beyond. The UNFCCC framework keeps the doors open to an outcome, which through its legitimacy and global scope has the unique potential to deliver. I do sincerely hope that the decisions of this COP will bring us closer to the outcome we all aspire to.

2011 is particularly important for Poland. In its second half, our Country will be serving as the Presidency of the European Union. It will be the responsibility of my country to guide the decision making process within the EU. The European Union and its 27 Member States have always shown leadership in the climate negotiations while maintaining a certain degree of flexibility, which enables constructive dialogue and promotes forward looking solutions. Let me assure you, that it will be our prerogative to maintain this strong and facilitative approach of the European Union during the Polish Presidency in the view of the COP 17 in Durban.

With this in mind, we see a great importance in the Kyoto Protocol and maintaining its flexible mechanisms, which have allowed the Polish economy to reduce emissions in a cost effective way. We believe that signing on to a second commitment period, which would ensure further GHG emissions reductions is feasible, alongside tangible progress in global negotiations.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates, thank you very much for your attention.