

RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA  
STAŁE PRZEDSTAWICIELSTWO  
PRZY NARODACH  
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REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
PERMANENT MISSION  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Statement by  
Mr. Pawel Herczynski, Deputy Permanent Representative  
Mission of the Republic of Poland to the UNITED NATIONS  
65th Session of the General Assembly  
3rd Committee  
POLAND  
Statement concerning the agenda item  
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Poland is taking the floor for the first time during the 65th session of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, so let me begin by joining the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, and other members of the Bureau on your election.

Mr. Chairman,

The advancement of women is a broad and important subject for our discussion in the Third Committee, especially this year which marks a significant step forward in terms of global commitments to the rights of women. In September 2010 we celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration. Within the last 15 years equal rights of women and men, equal opportunities and

access to resources, an equal share of responsibilities in the family and a harmonious partnership between women and men are critical to the well-being of the family, as well as to the consolidation of democracy. As we can observe in last few years the issues of domestic violence, violence against women and human trafficking, ceased to be merely private problems of the victims and became social issues known to the wider public. Gender equality is a key element of the social justice, but it also constitutes a prerequisite for the achievement of sustainable economic growth, employment, competitiveness and social cohesion. The Polish Government pays much attention to the advancement of women throughout actions related to the promotion of equal opportunities for women and men in the labour market, counteracting gender stereotypes present in the society, as well as promoting and popularizing the issue of gender equality. Such a stance was reiterated by the last two Congresses of Polish Women – organised 20 years after Poland's political transition.

As we have mentioned many times in this forum, gender equality policies should be treated as a long-term investment rather than as a short-term liability. Poland, while supporting the statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of the European Union, would like to seize this opportunity to reiterate our conviction that any reference to the sexual and reproductive rights of women made in the statement by the EU does not constitute an encouragement to the promotion of abortion.

Mr. Chairman,

Please be assured of Poland's commitment to the full and swift realization of the advancement of women. We look forward to working with you and other delegations to achieve this goal.

I thank you all.