STATEMENT BY

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE
UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Thank you Mr. President,

I would like to thank the Executive Director for her address and reiterate our strong support for the mission and leadership of the UN WOMEN in promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Poland is fully dedicated to support human rights of women and girls. Gender equality is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Polish Constitution and as a shared value and a core objective is strongly present in our internal and foreign policies.

Mr. President,

The Government of Poland fully agrees with the strategic goals of the UN Women and commends it’s crucial role in mainstreaming and advancing gender equality at the UN forum. As a sign of our engagement, in 2014 we continued with our financial support both to the UN WOMEN regular budget and to the specific programme, namely in Moldova.

We are particularly committed to the UN Women activities in the area of the promotion of increased participation of women in public life and their self-reliance in the economic sphere. In this context, we reiterate the necessity to further promote close cooperation with non-governmental organizations and human rights defenders.

We believe our work should continue to be based on the international agreements and commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women, inter alia Beijing Declaration and ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development).

Mr. President,

Twenty years ago in Beijing the participants of the Fourth World Conference on Women strived towards creating a road map which would make gender equality a reality.

Poland actively participated in the conference and our government has taken numerous initiatives since then to improve women’s rights in our country. We
have resolved to strengthen the legal guarantees of equality between women and men and to combat discriminatory legislation.

Women in Poland are becoming more visible and active in all areas of public life, both in politics and the economy. In 2009 the concept of annual conferences entitled Women's Congress has been established to bring together women from all domains of public and private sectors to provide a forum for discussion on the advancement of women. Since then the Congress meets every year contributing to the enhancement of women’s visibility and involvement in the areas of politics, economy, social life and culture.

In today’s world, women’s participation is crucial for increasing the competitiveness of the economy, and for ensuring the effective rule of law. In recent years we have been working intensely on empowering and supporting independence of women in this regard, inter alia by establishing quotas on voting lists and in some political parties.

Mr. President,

While the UN system plays central role in the promotion and protection of women’s rights, we consider it crucially important to coordinate our efforts with various regional and subregional organizations, such as the European Union, the Council of Europe and OSCE.

Although Poland, similarly to others, still has much to do in order to reach the commitments made twenty years ago in Beijing, we are confident that the continuing work carried out both nationally as well as within such international fora brings us closer to achieving the set goals.

Thank you.