

National statement by President of the Republic of Poland

Mr. Andrzej Duda at COP29

Baku, 12 November 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I warmly congratulate Minister Mukhtar Babayev on taking over this year's presidency of the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. I thank the Republic of Azerbaijan for the organization of the event and for your hospitality. This is the last time that I attend the Conference of the Parties as President of the Republic of Poland. I am pleased to be able to raise, once again, issues of such immense importance to our future.

During my presidency in Poland, I have worked to keep the climate policy agenda high on my country's priority list. I am glad that I had the pleasure to personally ratify the Paris Agreement in 2016. I also feel great satisfaction with the organization of COP 24 in Katowice. It was, in my opinion, a landmark event in many ways.

It was exactly in Katowice that we adopted the so called Katowice Rule Book, a guide to implementing the tenets of the Paris Agreement.

It was also there that the idea of the Declaration on Solidarity and Just Transition was born. Today it constitutes the benchmark for energy and economic transformation across the world. Since then, I have consistently repeated that a just transition cannot take place against societies and to the detriment of the current living conditions. At last year's COP28 in Dubai, I stressed that we still pay too little attention to the human dimension. And yet, a just transition must be carried out in a sensible way, so that it benefits people in the first place.

COP24 in Katowice also adopted a ministerial declaration "Forests for Climate", which highlighted the need to use forests in climate policy as natural sinks and reservoirs for greenhouse gases. Poland values this role of woodland and cares for them because they also provide a home and habitat for many species of plants, animals and fungi living in Poland. Preserving

biodiversity is a precondition for the existence of life on Earth. I touched upon this issue in my speech at the UN Plenary Session on Biodiversity in 2020.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At a time of so many climate challenges and threats, a key conclusion for us should be to strengthen synergies between the following conventions: the UNFCCC on climate, the UNCBD on biological diversity and the UNCCD to combat desertification. It is also important to take joint action on mitigation, adaptation, combating soil degradation and achieving climate neutrality.

Let us also remember that our environmental efforts are being undermined by the wars going on in the world. Russian aggression against Ukraine has shown us that armed conflicts also result in serious environmental damage and pollution. Therefore, our actions must be comprehensive. Because environmental protection is also conflict prevention!

Excellencies,

Despite challenges, Poland fulfils all its obligations and is consistent in following the path of sustainable development and just transition.

A year ago in Dubai, I mentioned Poland's plans and efforts to create a balanced energy mix that will ensure our energy security, along with the development of renewable energy sources. In Poland, the wind power sector continues to grow, and we have a surge in home and large-scale photovoltaic installations. At the same time, we are drilling more wells for the development of geothermal energy. A year ago, I also presented Poland's ambitions to build a stable nuclear power industry. I am glad that in Dubai I was able to take part in the event accompanying the adoption of the declaration on tripling nuclear power capacity. I signed it with full conviction, because I believe that nuclear is the future. And it is only nuclear that will help us to achieve our climate goals and guarantee clean, safe and stable energy!

We are an example of a country which, for years, has been able to ensure both: a steady GDP growth and a decrease in the

carbon intensity of our economy. This is the best confirmation that our actions are correct and that Poland is following the path of sustainable development set by the UN.

Listening to the current and previously held speeches by other Heads of State I know that Polish solutions are appreciated in the world. I am glad that many Polish ideas, including mine, are being implemented by other countries. Let's cooperate and inspire each other in order to jointly bring about new pro- climate solutions that are beneficial to humans, the environment and the climate.

Thank you.