



MINISTRY
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MINISTER'S OFFICE

2017 UN Forum on Business and Human Rights
Speaking notes of Poland
for parallel session on National Actions Plans and access to remedy
Geneva, 29 November 2017

Poland wishes to thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its support to Forum on Business and Human Rights, and the Working Group on Business and Human Rights for organization also of this session. *The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* have become a global point of reference for all activities aimed at improving respect for human rights in the context of business activity.

We are very pleased to inform you that as a result of efforts striving for implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights at the national level the *Polish National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights for years 2017-2020* (NAP) has been adopted by the Council of Ministers on 29 May, 2017. This document is the final achievement of activity of inter-ministerial group in line with the implementation of *the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* and in compliance with the Council of Europe Recommendation in this regards (CM/Rec(2016)3).

The process of preparation on Polish National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights was coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this process several ministries were involved: the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Policy, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance. The first draft of NAP was subject of public consultation in dialogue with relevant stakeholders, business representatives, trade unions, employers organizations and non-governmental organizations. The NAP has also been published online for public consultation which has allowed to enrich its content with comments received from civil society and other actors who had the opportunity to individually contribute.

In accordance with the entries of Polish NAP the relevant ministries are obligated to prepare an implementation schedule for particular actions by the end of 2017, whereas the first progress report within the scope of implementation of the UN Guiding Principles and a good practices catalogue will be prepared by the end of 2018.

On the beginning of October 2017 the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business organized the conference dedicated to implementation of the Polish National Action Plan. It was the first meeting directed at members of the public administration, but also at representatives of business and NGOs, which had the goal of presenting of the newly-adopted Polish National Action Plan in a complex manner, as well as providing an arena for collective discussion on the topic of the most effective methods for implementing the NAP, potential partner activities, and necessary legislative action that will ensure the full realization of the UN Guiding Principles.

As for access to remedy, which is the main theme of this Forum, we would like to inform you that in 2016 Poland has renewed the OECD National Contact Point so that it could function better and be more meaningful for all stakeholders. This unique mechanism, which is the OECD NCP, provides the possibility of submitting notifications for violations of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, including the Human Rights chapter. For this reason, we are doing a lot of awareness raising activities, especially among the business representatives but also other groups of stakeholders.

In addition to that we are undertaking lots of efforts to promote Polish NAP as well as the issue of business and human rights especially in the contexts of the process of implementation of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals as well as in the contexts of non-financial disclosure with regard the EU non-financial disclosure directive where one of the areas of disclosure are human rights.

Thank you for your attention.

(The speech was given by Ms. Jacqueline KACPRZAK, Counsellor to the Minister at the Minister's Office, Ministry of Economic Development, who is responsible for implementation of CSR and RBC policy in Poland)