



**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Zbigniew Czech,  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office in Geneva at  
the Global Refugee Forum, 17-18 December 2019**

*Chairpersons of the Global Refugee Forum, Excellences, Distinguished participants,*

Poland welcomes the opportunity to contribute at the Global Refugee Forum by sharing good practices. We believe it is a moral and legal obligation to internally protect and support the civilian population.

At the same time let me recall that Poland is among countries that haven't subscribed to the Global Compact on Refugees. Allow me also to highlight that a state retains the sovereign right to determine instruments and tools to be used in support of refugees and refugee hosting states.

*Excellences,*

Poland is ongoingly successful in carrying out support in the regions of refugees' origin. In the context of **burden and responsibility-sharing**, Poland continues to share knowledge and experience in the field of humanitarian assistance and development cooperation. This is of particular importance for us in hard to reach areas such as Syria, eastern Ukraine or Iraq. Moreover this March in Brussels Poland pledged 4.8 million USD during the international conference entitled "Supporting the future of Syria and the region".

We are gravely concerned about humanitarian situation in non-government controlled areas of neighbouring Ukraine. In 2019 our humanitarian aid for Ukraine amounted to almost 1 million USD. Poland is also involved there in activities aimed at psychological support for veterans, internally displaced persons and children affected by conflict. We improve functioning of the social services system, develop opportunities for IDPs employment and ensure constant support for the UNHCR activities.

*Excellences,*

In the area of enhancing **protection capacity**, our contribution takes a form of support for asylum systems in those countries which host large number of refugees. Through the European Asylum Support Office mission such support was made under the project entitled "Regional Support to Protection Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey". In this project Polish experts trained asylum officers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Kosovo.

Since 2016 Poland supports the EASO operational missions in Italy, Cyprus, Greece and Malta. We have deployed to the EASO Asylum Support Teams more than 120 asylum and reception experts.

In the **area of education**, Poland ensures that children of asylum seekers or immigrants without documents benefit from education and care delivered by all types of public kindergartens and schools up to the age of 18 or graduation from secondary or upper secondary school under conditions applicable to Polish citizens.

Additionally, Poland facilitates access for the non-nationals, who hold refugee status or who have been granted temporary or subsidiary protection, to apply for free of charge, full time studies in Polish language and all scholarships.

*I thank you.*