Statement of the Republic of Poland
at the general debate for Humanitarian Affairs Segment
of UN ECOSOC, Geneva, 23-25 June 2021

Poland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and welcomes opportunity to address this forum. We would like to express our gratitude to the Governments of Switzerland and Indonesia for facilitating discussions on this year’s ECOSOC humanitarian resolution. We would also like to mention that Poland actively participated in the recent humanitarian discussion series about how to develop principled humanitarian action.

Since 2020, with the COVID-19 pandemic compounding the previous inequalities, Poland highlights particularly the situation of 1 billion people across the world living with disabilities. Poland reiterates the need to empower these persons in order to ease the impact of armed conflicts on them in line with commitments stemming from the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution 2475 (2019).

Child protection as well has always been at the heart of Poland’s multilateral cooperation and one of our priorities during the non-permanent membership and our presidency in the UN Security Council.

In 2021, under health emergency conditions, humanitarian needs are increasing. At the same time the pandemic has impacted many donors’ internal ability to deliver assistance. The problem of limited resources may be reduced by more effective coordination and distribution of humanitarian aid. We believe that future humanitarian responses need to be based on coherence, prioritizing of actions and innovations.

Poland remains a reliable partner in multilateral cooperation. Since 2012 being a member of OCHA Donor Support Group and a devoted partner to International Committee of the Red Cross, we have been actively engaged in providing humanitarian assistance in many places in the world. Last year only, under Official Development Assistance, Poland contributed approx. 816 mln USD to humanitarian and development aid.
For 2021 and beyond the utmost priority is improving food security. Hunger is a critical factor causing or exacerbating other humanitarian crises and it mostly effects migration, particularly when combined with conflict or lack of economic opportunities. Mindful of this, in 2021, Poland decided to support with the amount of 1 mln PLN the World Food Programme activities in Yemen.

In closing we would like to further stress the genuine importance of observing the international humanitarian law in order to reduce suffering and protect people in conflict and crisis areas. In this context Poland sees the need for training activities for military staff members and humanitarian and medical workers. Based on the Memorandum of Understanding concluded in 2018 Poland cooperates with ICRC and supports its projects and programmes concerning promotion of international humanitarian law.