

**Undersecretary of State Mr. Wojciech Gerwel**

**Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in  
the region of the Economic Commission for Europe**

*(18-19 April 2023)*

*Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,*

The 70th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is taking place in time of multiple crises. Before I move to the topic of today's debate, allow me to express our deep solidarity with Ukrainian people. Russia's unjustified aggression against Ukraine resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and livelihoods. Russia's war has threatened not only international security, but has also caused inflation, disruptions in the supply of food and energy that are felt not only in Europe, but across the world.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is against this backdrop that we must redouble our efforts for sustainable development. We believe that digital and green transformations are key tools that will allow us to achieve climate neutrality, while maintaining high dynamics of socio-economic development.

Poland is deeply involved in regional and global discussions on these matters. We have signed a declaration "A Green and Digital Transformation of the EU", which underscores that smart use of clean digital technologies can serve as a key enabler for climate action, environmental sustainability and for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. As an EU Member State we are particularly interested in application of digital technologies to achieve the goals of the European Green Deal, especially in terms of decarbonisation and reduction of energy consumption.

We are convinced that successful digital transformation must involve active engagement of public administration. Our main focus is to increase digital awareness among all social groups, also through the use of innovative educational technology tools. We are successfully

implementing e-health instruments and are working on a number of sectoral projects related to e-administration. The digital revolution also means that the functioning of the entire state depends on the efficiency and stability of ICT systems. And as the number of threats and incidents in cyberspace is rapidly increasing, ensuring cyber security is one of the top priorities.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

After Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the issue of energy security has become critical. Our priority is to become fully independent of imports of energy resources from Russia, and at the same time to gradually reduce the share of hydrocarbons, in particular coal, in our energy mix. In terms of energy transition, we currently anticipate more dynamic development of renewable energy sources, so that in 2040 about half of the energy production will come from the renewables. The expansion of existing and construction of new LNG import terminals will remain however of key importance with natural gas playing a vital role in energy transition. An important new element of Polish energy mix will be nuclear energy, based primarily on large scale reactors as well as prospective introduction of small modular reactors.

In conclusion, let me underline that Poland is ready to join efforts to ensure that digital and green transformations enhance resilience of our societies and advance the 2030 Agenda. In doing so we will gladly use the expertise and tools provided by the UN Economic Commission for Europe. I hope that today's discussions will provide momentum to bring us closer to that common goal.

*Thank you.*