



# REPUBLIC OF POLAND

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**The Seventh Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science,  
Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals**

***Ministerial Session: Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs  
and a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic***

**Statement by Mr. Krzysztof Szubert,  
High Representative of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland  
for European Digital Policy and Poland's Plenipotentiary for United  
Nations Internet Governance Forum 2021**

**New York, 5 May 2022**

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Last December Poland hosted the United Nations Internet Governance Forum. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted the UN IGF annual meeting to be accessible to everyone who wanted to join the global discussion. And we did it!

Katowice IGF provided a fully hybrid format for over 300 sessions. We had a record number of almost 10,400 registered participants from 175 countries. It was our honour to host over 2,700 participants onsite in Katowice.

A positive vision for the future of the Internet must combine fundamental values such as human rights, access and openness – this is just one of the conclusions included in the *Katowice IGF Messages* – a final document issued after the IGF, that needs to be taken into constant consideration.

At the end of March, an IGF Expert Group Meeting was held in New York, and I was honoured to take part in it. We were discussing new ways of how the IGF can contribute to advancing digital cooperation.

In today's world full of modern technologies there is a need for coordination of digital strategies both at the United Nations level as well as across the US/UN and EU cooperation. The IGF outcomes and decisions are crucial within other global initiatives like the United Nations Secretary General's report entitled *Our Common Agenda*.

Those days it is impossible not to mention the current situation along Poland's Eastern border which is also the Eastern border of the European Union and NATO. The Russia-Ukraine conflict takes place also in the digital sphere. Both in the context of cybersecurity and attacks on critical infrastructure and on public administration services, as well as in the scope of disinformation. This is now a very significant element of activity not used in the past on such a scale.

So far Poland has taken in almost 3 million war refugees. All of them receive a lot of support, including the digital one.

The Polish authorities have taken immediate action so that the Ukrainian war refugees could apply for a Polish national ID Number, which allows them to fully benefit from the assistance offered by the Polish central and local government.

To confirm their identity, Ukrainian citizens will use a secure electronic document which is made accessible for them in the Polish digital wallet called eCitizen. Almost 1 million refugees from Ukraine have already received the national identification number. This is just an example of support for the transfer of ICT infrastructure.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Having in mind the unique position of the United Nations, it is extremely important to have a coherent, multi-stakeholder and responsible vision for the development of technologies. We need to use digital technologies to protect our planet, promote peace and prevent conflicts.

*Thank you.*