

***Delegation from
Poland***

***Represented by
ESCP EUROPE***

***Position Paper for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO)***

The topics before the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization are: Preservation of the Right of Free Speech across Global Cultural and Religious Divides and Establishing Framework to Protect the Global Environment in the Wake of Catastrophic Man-Made and Natural Disasters. Poland emphasizes cooperation between all Member States to preserve the Right of Free Speech and the Global Environment, regardless of frontiers.

I. Preservation of the Right of Free Speech across Global Cultural and Religious Divides

Since the introduction of the “Statutes of Wislica” by Casimir III of Poland in 1347, Poland has always been committed to promote Freedom of Speech. Poland reaffirmed its dedication to Freedom of Speech in 1993 while signing as a member of the Council of Europe the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Poland particularly endorses the 10th Article of the Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which states that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, to receive and share information and opinions without interference by public authorities and all around the world. Poland however recognizes that Freedom of Speech may imply some restrictions. Indeed, Freedom of Speech may be restricted, conditioned or punished by law if its exercise threatens democracy, national security, territorial integrity, health, morals, the rights of others, the confidentiality of information received in confidence or the maintaining of the authority and impartiality of the judiciary. Emphasizing the fact that there is no Freedom of Speech without Freedom of Media, Poland deeply encourages the actions of the International Programme for the Preservation of Free Speech. In that way, Poland supported the creation of the Press Freedom Monitoring Center in 1996 to increase journalists’ protection, to reinforce Freedom of Speech through any media and to guarantee a proper using of this right. Through this Freedom Monitoring Center, Poland expresses its hope to preserve Free Speech so far as in conflicts situation or in case of express criticism and to create centers dedicated to protect Freedom of Speech in every country of East Central Europe.

II. Establishing Framework to Protect the Global Environment in the Wake of Catastrophic Man-Made and Natural Disasters

Poland is currently deeply dedicated to dealing with every kind of disaster, be they natural calamity or man-made catastrophe and feels really concerned by the protection of the Global Environment. Poland remains committed to the Programme launched in 1976 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on Ecological Reserves, with no less than nine ecological reserves in the Polish territory. Since March 2002, Poland is building a common Ecological Reserve with Ukraine and Belarus, reaffirming its hope to reinforce the cooperation between East Central European countries. Having been stricken by the biggest inundation of the past 160 years in summer 2010, Poland emphasizes the necessity to come up with new ways to ensure the protection of the Global Environment. Poland aims at dealing with disasters on a continental scale, under the aegis of the European Union. In that way,

Poland approves the environmental strategies of the European Community. Poland strongly endorses the 7th Research and Development Framework Programme which encourages the development of existing knowledge. This Programme promotes a sustainable management of the Global Environment, expressing the Polish hope to implement a common disaster prevention system. Poland further invites all Member States to cooperate with countries stricken by disasters and to work on the establishment of legislative and financial frameworks to minimise the potential risks and to help in rehabilitation and post-disaster reduction.