

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND**



***STRATEGY FOR POLAND'S
DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION***

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Contents

Introduction – challenges and opportunities	3
1. Factors influencing global development co-operation	4
2. Foundations of development co-operation of the Republic of Poland	5
2.1 Strategic goals, tasks and expected results of Poland’s development co-operation	5
2.2 Principles of Poland’s development co-operation	6
2.3 Priority directions and fields of aid and criteria for their selection	6
2.3.1 Priority directions of aid	6
2.3.2 Priority fields of aid	7
3. Forms and instruments of Poland’s development co-operation	8
3.1 Types of aid	8
3.2 Bilateral aid	8
3.2.1 Aid in the form of development projects	8
3.2.2 Technical assistance	8
3.2.3 Financial aid	9
3.2.4 Humanitarian and food aid	9
3.2.5 Volunteers	9
3.3 Multilateral aid	10
3.4 Poland’s international development co-operation	10
3.4.1 Co-operation in the framework of the European Union	10
3.4.2 Co-operation in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	11
3.4.3 Co-operation in the framework of the United Nations system	12
3.4.4 Co-operation in the framework of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank	13
3.4.5 Co-operation with development co-operation institutions of other states	13
3.4.6 Regional co-operation	13
4. Identification of aid projects and programs	14
5. Institutional solutions and financial implications	14
5.1 Planning of development co-operation	15
5.2 Financing of aid activity	15
5.3 Management of development co-operation policy	15
5.4 Tasks of the Minister of Foreign Affairs	15
5.5 Tasks of the Minister of Finance	17
5.6 Tasks of the implementing institution	17
5.7 Polish diplomatic posts abroad	18
5.8 Council for Development Co-operation	18
6. Co-operation with non-governmental organisations and other institutions	18
7. Promotion of the program of development co-operation of the Republic of Poland	19

Introduction – challenges and opportunities

The processes of globalisation, combined with the end of the Cold War and advent of the principles of democracy and free market, fundamentally changed the conditions of operation of states, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, aid agencies and other entities involved in international development co-operation and provision of development aid. Heads of state and government, including President of the Republic of Poland Aleksander Kwaśniewski, accepted the Millennium Development Goals, signing the Millennium Declaration in September 2000, as well as the Political Declaration and Plan of Implementation adopted during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in September 2002. The implementation of the adopted goals requires commitment by all the actors of international life, involving not only material and financial transfers, but also changes in trade, agricultural, investment and environmental policies.

Foreign aid has already enhanced the socio-economic development of many states and elimination of poverty of millions of people. Life expectancy has been extended, more people have gained access to potable water, illiteracy has been reduced, infant mortality rate has been cut, systemic transformations accelerated and food security ensured in many regions of the world. Such tangible results would not have been possible without aid transfers from developed states.

Development aid still constitutes an instrument of bridging the global development gap. Aid mainly provided by the member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development plays a significant role, particularly in the struggle against poverty, in protecting health, environment, and in education.

OECD member states, including Poland as of 1996, grant development aid out of conviction that sustainable development of humanity is in the common interest, and that prosperity in developing states and those in transformation also enhances the advancement of developed states. Involvement in global development co-operation is universally perceived as a duty of all the countries of the world, stemming from considerations of an ethical, moral, social, economic and political nature. Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals requires a new partnership based on respect for sovereignty and tradition, and also on a shared responsibility and observance of universally accepted rules and principles.

During its systemic transformation, Poland also received tangible foreign aid. During the nineties, economically developed countries and international organisations earmarked substantial funds for aid to Poland. That aid largely contributed to the success of the systemic transformations, as well as social and economic reforms initiated in 1989. As a member of the European Union, Poland will use EU funds to accelerate its development.

By endorsing the Millennium Declaration, Poland pledged to support and become involved in actions of the international community designed to solve global problems of an economic, social and humanitarian character.

The growing participation of Poland in global development co-operation will enhance the international influence of our country. It will also raise the world prestige of Poland as a country that – upon entering the European Union – does not forget the problems of other regions of the world.

After Poland's accession to the European Union, our country will be expected to become a larger aid donor. We will have to bear a greater financial burden by co-financing European Union development programs. Poland, similarly to the states of the European Union, should have an institutionalised system of providing foreign aid, based on proven world standards and procedures. This will permit to take best advantage of the possibilities offered by EU membership, creating development opportunities for Polish enterprises, non-governmental organisations and other institutions of the non-public sector. Recognising the significant role of development co-operation in the achievement of Poland's foreign policy goals, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland – acting in compliance with the basic directions of Poland's foreign policy in 2003, as presented by Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz – has drafted the fundamental guidelines of state policy in this field and an outline of institutional framework allowing its practical realisation.

The Strategy constitutes an outline of Poland's development and humanitarian aid framework, and of shaping state policy with regard to development co-operation commensurate with the financial potential of the state budget and utilising the existing institutional solutions. After the adoption of the Strategy by the Council of Ministers, implementation of the tasks formulated therein will permit co-shaping of the development policy of the European Union and utilisation of its mechanisms, along with own aid resources, to implement our key goals and interests in the recipient countries.

Recognising the need for a legislative regulation of the provision of development aid by Poland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – after the adoption of the Strategy by the Council of Ministers – will submit a draft Law on Development Co-operation, which will amend the present regulations, also with regard to the assignment of future tasks among the respective ministers.

1. Factors influencing global development co-operation

The primary factors influencing international development co-operation include:

- a) Globalisation in the world economy, combined with liberalisation of financial transfers and emergence of a knowledge-based economy on a world scale,

- b) End of the Cold War and democratisation in Central and Eastern Europe, which increased the competition for aid funds between developing countries and those undergoing systemic transformation,
- c) Comprehensive approach to development co-operation issues and striving for coherence of the development policies of the respective states with other spheres of life. Sustainable development – integrating economic growth, social advancement and environment protection – has come to be recognised as the proper direction of the further development of humanity,
- d) Responsible approach of developing countries to their own socio-economic development,
- e) International actions against terrorism, elimination of which also requires an intensification of development aid by the international community.

2. Foundations of development co-operation of the Republic of Poland

2.1. Strategic goals, tasks and expected results of Poland's development co-operation

It is the main goal of Poland's development co-operation to contribute to the sustainable development, including poverty reduction, in countries receiving Poland's aid. The objectives of our development co-operation are in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the guidelines of the European Union's development policy.

The main tasks of Poland's development co-operation include: supporting durable economic growth, respecting human rights, democracy, rule of law and principles of good governance, promoting global security and stability, transferring the experience of Polish system transformation, developing human resources, enhancing the development of public administration and local structures, protecting the natural environment and preventing environmental problems, granting emergency humanitarian and food aid.

Development co-operation, as an integral component of Poland's foreign policy and external relations of Poland, serves to achieve the basic goals of Polish foreign policy: ensuring the security and stability of the State and its citizens, protecting its interests and developing economic co-operation with countries on all continents. The security of Poland will be served by prevention of potential, conflict-prone tensions between North and South, its economic interests will benefit from greater involvement of developing countries and those undergoing transformations in the world economy, including trade and investment co-operation with our country, while the natural environment will be served by identification and elimination of environmental threats.

The provision of aid will have the important effect of promoting Poland among the opinion-makers in recipient countries as a state open to co-operation, dynamic economically, politically stable, culturally interesting and possessing rich human resources. Dissemination

of positive knowledge about Poland will indirectly facilitate various forms of cultural, scientific and technological co-operation, as well as increased exchange of people.

2.2. Principles of Poland's development co-operation

In implementing its policy of development co-operation, Poland will be guided by the following principles:

- Responsibility and ownership. Each country is responsible for its development by creating conditions to mobilise its internal development resources. Aid by the international community, including Poland, should have a supplementary character. Particular responsibility for the co-ordination of aid undertakings rests with the government administration of the recipient country, which should prepare the appropriate strategies of sustainable development and poverty reduction,
- Partnership between donor and recipient states, based on respect for sovereignty, traditions and culture, international solidarity and joint responsibility for implementation of the Millennium Development Goals at the local, regional and global level,
- Co-operation between the Government of the Republic of Poland and institutions of civil society and enterprises, in implementation of aid activity,
- Comprehensive approach to development issues, including elements of sustainable development, integrating economic growth with social development and respect for the natural environment,
- Differentiation of the forms of aid. Poland will adjust the forms of development aid to the needs of the respective developing countries and those undergoing systemic transformation. Poland reserves the right – in justified cases – to grant aid directly to specific institutions and groups of civil society in the recipient states,
- Transparency of the procedures connected with the identification of development projects, distribution of and accounting for public funds, as well as evaluation of the effectiveness of aid projects.

2.3. Priority directions and fields of aid and criteria for their selection

2.3.1. Priority directions of aid

Priority in the implementation of Poland's development co-operation programs and projects will be assigned to:

- selected developing countries with which Poland maintains political, economic and cultural relations at a significant level,
- selected countries implementing systemic transformations, particularly in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe,

- selected developing countries and those undergoing transformation with large population of Polish origin.

The choice of the priority directions of Polish development co-operation stems from the general objectives of Poland's foreign policy, and specific considerations, including:

- a) local development needs,
- b) observance of human rights, rule of law and principles of good governance,
- c) active presence of Polish diplomatic missions, non-governmental organisations, church institutions and enterprises in the recipient country, as well as the technical ability of these institutions to participate in planning and implementing aid in the given country or region,
- d) existence of multilateral and bilateral aid programs, implemented by international organisations and other developed countries.

Poland may suspend or refuse development aid to a country which violates human rights, principles of democracy, rule of law and good governance, poses a threat to international peace and security, or spends a substantial part of its budget on armament.

The criteria of selection of the geographic priorities of Poland's development aid will not be applied to humanitarian and food aid, provided in very specific circumstances, as well as ad hoc actions, launched to prevent crises and armed conflicts, or serving state security, such as suppression of terrorism.

2.3.2. Priority fields of aid

Poland will grant foreign development aid in fields where the needs of the recipient states are the greatest, and in which Polish public institutions and NGOs have a comparative advantage in relation to the other members of the international donor community. Our activity will be focused on the following areas: health protection, education and science, access to potable water, protection of the environment, consolidation of local structures, support for democratic institutions, improvement of public administration efficiency, development of cross - border co-operation and sector restructuring.

Accepting the 20/20 Initiative adopted during the 1995 World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen, we will seek to earmark 20 % of the Poland's development aid to social development, and to ensure that the recipient states of Poland's aid allocate to that goal 20 % of the funds at their disposal in national budgets.

Poland's development aid will be granted in compliance with the principle of equality of gender, race, religion, nationality, language, political convictions and world outlook.

The competent institutions of state administration will conduct the division and allocation of funds to the respective countries and fields.

3. Forms and instruments of Poland's development co-operation

3.1. Types of aid

Poland will grant bilateral or multilateral aid depending on the organisation of co-operation with the given recipient country or region, and depending on current initiatives implemented within international organisations.

3.2. Bilateral aid

Bilateral aid includes aid in the form of development projects or programs, technical aid, humanitarian and food aid, volunteers, preferential credits in the framework of tied and untied aid and bilateral debt-relief initiatives.

3.2.1. Aid in the form of development projects

Taking into account our potential and the needs of the recipient states, we shall concentrate on the development of social and environmental infrastructure. Aid projects in the reconstruction of war damage will be another prominent area of activity.

3.2.2. Technical assistance

Poland's technical aid will include commitment to raise the knowledge, skills and qualifications of different social groups. Advancement of the human resources will also be enhanced by aid in developing education systems and restructuring the respective branches of the economy, including training for administrative, managerial, economic and self-government staff, provision of expert assistance, technical consulting, preparation of expert appraisals and economic analyses. Polish technical aid will also include preparation and implementation of investment projects in recipient countries through consulting services, expert support, transfer of know-how and training qualified personnel.

Poland has experience in the sphere of systemic transformation, reforming of state institutions and the economic system – and will share it with states in transformation.

Priority will continue to be assigned to the education of students and post-graduates, both in Polish and foreign universities with the participation of Polish lecturers, for the purpose of upgrading human resources and transferring knowledge to developing countries and those in transformation.

For this purpose, measures will be taken to launch a scholarship program to finance studies for young scientists and students, as well as administrative and economic staff from abroad, and work abroad for Polish academic teachers and researchers. The program would be co-ordinated with actions undertaken within the framework of TEMPUS II, which will benefit states in the Mediterranean region and former Soviet republics.

3.2.3. Financial aid

Poland's important aid instruments will include preferential government credits as tied and untied aid and linked financing, combining aid credits with commercial financing, for developing countries and those in transformation, granted to the extent permitted by the financial potential of our country. In the case of aid credits, the following factors will be taken into consideration: default risk assessment, appraisal of the given country by international financial institutions and rating agencies, the volume of bilateral turnover and repayment of any debts.

Poland will also apply other instruments of financial aid, including conversion of debt to programs serving implementation of the key goals of Polish development co-operation.

With regard to the poorest and most indebted states, Poland – in collaboration with international financial institutions – will grant aid in another form, limiting new credits and focusing on granting financial aid through partial or full debt cancellation.

As regards multilateral undertakings, Poland will participate – to the extent allowed by the state budget – in international debt-relief initiatives benefiting the poorest developing countries and in financing the program of IMF and World Bank adjustment credits for the poorest countries.

In justified cases, non-repayable grants and preferential loans will be linked with credits granted by the Government of the Republic of Poland on commercial basis, e.g., in the form of export credits, taking into account the manufacturing and export potential of Polish enterprises.

3.2.4. Humanitarian and food aid

In the name of international solidarity, Poland will extend humanitarian aid to countries struck by natural disasters, calamities, armed conflicts and refugee migrations. Food aid will be activated in situations of a sudden deterioration of the food security in a given region of the world, and will be conveyed through domestic or foreign non-governmental organisations and intergovernmental institutions, such as the World Food Program. In granting food aid, Poland will be guided by the needs of the recipient states.

3.2.5. Volunteers

Poland, having at its disposal an appropriate base and pool of qualified staff resources, will send volunteers, including specialists in health and social care, agriculture, building and other sectors. In planning and implementing this form of aid, institutions of public administration will be collaborating with international institutions engaged in development co-operation, including the UN Volunteers.

3.3. Multilateral aid

Poland's development and humanitarian aid will be transferred both through bilateral channels and through international institutions. Since Poland will be contributing to the EU development co-operation budget, the volume of multilateral aid will be higher than the aid funds conveyed through bilateral channels. However, we shall strive to gradually increase the volume of bilateral funds.

Multilateral institutions will be used to transfer aid to those countries and regions of the world in which – due to internal and international conflicts and limited direct diplomatic and economic contacts with Poland – conditions are not conducive for direct aid. Multilateral aid will be also granted when effective implementation of a specific goal in the struggle against poverty or attainment of sustainable development requires co-ordinated and cohesive endeavours by the international community. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will conduct continuous monitoring of aid programs and funds with regard to their effectiveness in implementing the set goals and utilisation of funds.

Decisions concerning voluntary contributions to international aid funds will be determined by:

- financial potential of the state budget,
- compatibility of the fund objectives with the goals and principles of Poland's development co-operation, as well as the goals and interests of the foreign policy of the Republic of Poland,
- effectiveness of the given fund in implementing the Millennium Development Goals,
- effectiveness of the fund in utilisation of its resources,
- cohesion of the fund's activity with the national strategy of reducing poverty and sustainable development of the given recipient state.

3.4. Poland's international development co-operation

3.4.1. Co-operation in the framework of the European Union

While developing its own aid system, Poland will act to ensure complementarity, coherence and co-ordination of actions in the sphere of development co-operation with aid programs implemented by the European Community and EU member states. In planning and implementing aid projects and programs, Poland will utilise the EU aid strategies addressed to the respective recipient states, and will strive to ensure co-ordination of aid endeavours of the Republic of Poland with the activity of the European Community and EU Member States.

An appropriate part of our financial contribution to the Community budget will be earmarked for the financing of EU development aid projects and programs. Poland will also undertake negotiations with the European Commission and the EU Member States concerning our financial contribution to the European Development Fund.

Poland will strive to harmonise its principles and procedures of providing development aid with the principles and procedures applied by EU states and Union institutions. We shall adjust to the European Union's methods of planning, implementing and assessing aid projects. As a result, Polish enterprises, non-governmental organisations and other non-public institutions engaged in transferring Poland's development aid will obtain tangible benefits from participation in the EU aid market, and will compete on equal footing with corresponding entities of other EU member countries.

Poland will contribute to the development policy of the EU, i. a. with regard to supporting political and economic transformations, including the building of democratic institutions and market economy mechanisms. Working in the framework of Community institutions, we shall strive to make provisions in the planning of EU development co-operation for the needs of states undergoing systemic transformation.

We shall support EU initiatives contributing to sustainable development of third countries and improvement of the natural environment, to enhancing the quality of goods, to preserving bio-diversity and rational utilisation of natural resources in the framework of the common trade and agricultural policy and environment protection policy.

Poland will collaborate in the joint implementation of EU aid programs in third countries through the participation of Polish experts and co-financing of selected programs. Organs of the government administration of the Republic of Poland will co-operate with corresponding institutions of the EU member states, and also with the European Commission, concerning provision of essential information and expert appraisals, and will collaborate in the implementation of Union development aid programs.

The European Union, which in March 2002 in Barcelona made the commitment that starting in 2006 all its members would earmark at least 0.33 per cent of their GNP for Official Development Assistance, expects that its enlargement will strengthen the engagement of the Community in the North-South dialogue and in international development co-operation. It also expects that new members, including Poland, will undertake to develop and harmonise their own development co-operation programs with other Union members.

3.4.2. Co-operation in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Poland actively participates in the works of OECD bodies undertaking the issues of aid for developing countries and those undergoing transformations, and in broadly perceived North-South dialogue.

Development aid is provided in the framework of the OECD in accordance with the principles determined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the Participants to the Arrangement on Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits.

Poland will strive to fulfil the criteria of membership in the Development Assistance Committee and to join it in the mid-term perspective.

We shall support actions designed to ensure the broadest possible implementation of OECD recommendations and guidelines concerning development co-operation in aid programs and projects of member states, including those implemented by Poland. In particular, we shall use our participation in the works of OECD bodies, including the DAC, to ensure further evolution of the Poland's development co-operation program and harmonisation of the relevant procedures with the procedures applied by the international donor community.

In the framework of the Arrangement on Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits, Poland will grant credits with a grant element to the recipient countries for the purchase of Polish goods and services.

3.4.3. Co-operation in the framework of the United Nations system

Poland positively appraises the activity of institutions of the United Nations system in promoting global development co-operation and UN operational activity in reducing poverty and implementing the principles of sustainable development. The universal character of membership and comprehensive scope of competencies predestines the UN system to play the leading role in bridging the global development gap. Poland will strive to ensure greater effectiveness of the UN in implementing development aid projects and programs, and in implementing universal standards of development co-operation. Poland will also be making – to the best of its ability - a financial contribution to multilateral aid funds operating under the UN auspices.

International UN conferences in the nineties confirmed that environment protection, human rights, struggle against poverty, support to gender equality and food security are inseparable elements of development. We recognise the recommendations of these conferences, and the Millennium Development Goals elaborated on their basis, as the points of reference in the respective fields of development co-operation. Their implementation will be actively sought by Poland in all the institutions of the United Nations system responsible for development issues.

Poland attaches importance to the co-operation in the framework of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank Group and the World Trade Organisation. At the WTO, Poland will focus on those areas of international trade which have substantial significance for developing countries and those in transformation, and will support a deeper integration of

those countries with the world economy. We shall seek to increase the share of those countries in international economic exchange, by supporting initiatives to liberalise global trade and investments.

In its bilateral aid activity, Poland will seek close co-operation with the co-ordinators of the UN system activity in the recipient countries and with the local offices of the United Nations Development Program

3.4.4. Co-operation in the framework of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank

Poland participates in the debt – relief actions for the most indebted world countries within the framework of the IMF and World Bank Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. Poland's contribution to date into the Initiative includes a zero-interest, twenty-year IMF loan of 7.073 million SDR granted by the National Bank of Poland a state budget donation of 5 million SDR spread over the years 2000-2004, for the benefit of the International Monetary Fund. Measures have also been taken for bilateral debt relief of Poland's debtors covered by the HIPC Initiative.

Poland will continue assisting the least developed countries through the International Development Association by participating in the elaboration by the donors of the directions and forms of assistance, and in supplementing the funds of this institution earmarked for financing development projects in recipient countries. Poland will also continue efforts to grant technical assistance to selected states comprising, together with Poland, a member group within the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

3.4.5. Co-operation with development co-operation institutions of other states

In implementing development co-operation, Poland will collaborate with government and non-government aid institutions of other states, particularly members of the EU and OECD.

3.4.6. Regional co-operation

Similar level of socio-economic development of the states of Central Europe, similarity of their experiences with regard to utilisation of development aid, similarity of their institutional structures and of the volume of the foreign aid they grant, predestine them – also after joining the European Union – to closely cooperate in this area, including implementation of joint aid projects in third countries.

4. Identification of aid projects and programs

Under the periodic plans of development co-operation, proposals and concepts of aid projects and programs may be submitted by institutions of the recipient states (governments, other state institutions, organs of self-government, non-governmental institutions, enterprises), Polish government, self-government and non-public sector institutions, institutions of the European Union and those of the United Nations system or other international institutions. Polish diplomatic posts may also act as initiators of aid projects.

Procedures based on EU and OECD standards will be applied in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating aid projects of the Poland's development co-operation programme. Upon the completion of a project, an analysis of its effects will be conducted, including i. a. assessment of the effectiveness in realising its goals, the methods used in their attainment, and the encountered difficulties and limitations.

5. Institutional solutions and financial implications

Effective utilisation of budgetary development aid funds requires an institutional aid mechanism corresponding to the volume of aid granted, and compatible with EU and OECD standards. The mechanism should be characterised by the following features:

- clear and transparent division of competencies and responsibilities between the respective institutions,
- transparent financial and controlling procedures,
- effective mechanisms of co-ordination,
- participation of non-government communities in consultations on the basic directions of aid policy,
- co-operation of government institutions with non-governmental aid organisations in implementing aid programs.

By basing the Polish system of development aid on existing institutions, it will be possible to avoid additional expenditures out of the state budget. At the same time, in view of international obligations stemming from membership in the EU, OECD and UN system institutions, Poland intends to increase its development aid for developing countries and those in transformation to the level of 0.1 per cent of GNP by 2006. The establishment of an institutional mechanism for aid provision will favour effective utilisation of those funds and effective implementation of the goals of Poland's development co-operation.

The system of Polish development aid will be based on the following substantive and organisational assumptions:

5.1. Planning of development co-operation

The priority directions and fields of Polish development co-operation for year-long periods will be elaborated within the main directions of Polish foreign policy for the given year; i.e. document adopted annually by the Council of Ministers. Operational yearly plans will be prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and other ministries, within the volume of funds allocated in the budget act.

5.2. Financing of aid activity

Aid will be financed with public funds allocated each year in the state budget. These resources may be supplemented with funds from the private and non-government sector.

5.3. Management of development co-operation policy

Development co-operation is an integral part of the foreign policy of the RP, and the minister in charge of foreign affairs is the body competent to conduct policy in this area on behalf of the Republic of Poland.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs will conduct the policy of development co-operation through his subordinate Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Department of International Development Co-operation.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs is the co-ordinator of development co-operation implemented by other ministries and institutions. He will perform this function through the National Co-ordinator for International Development Co-operation (in the rank of Under-secretary of State).

There are no plans to establish a separate agency in charge of practical implementation of the program of Poland's development aid before the appropriate legislation concerning institutional solutions is adopted. An existing institution (hereinafter referred to as implementing institution) will be selected by way of competition, in compliance with the provisions of the laws on public finances and public procurement – and will be responsible to the Minister of Foreign Affairs for implementation of project, technical, humanitarian and food aid for developing countries and countries undergoing transformation, and for elaboration of mechanisms of co-operation with the non-public sector, particularly non-governmental organisations.

5.4. Tasks of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Minister of Foreign Affairs plans and supervises the implementation of tasks in the sphere of project, technical, humanitarian and food aid, and conducts volunteer-related activity. The Minister's tasks also include matters relating to Poland's participation in international aid organisations, programs and funds, with the exception of international

financial organisations and tasks assigned to the Minister of Finance and implemented in the framework of the OECD Development Assistance Committee and on the basis of the Arrangement on Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits.

In particular, the tasks of the Minister of Foreign Affairs will include:

- elaborating, in collaboration with the Minister of Finance and Minister of Economy, Labour and Social Policy, policy assumptions in the area of development co-operation, with due account taken of sectoral and geographical priorities and selection of aid distribution channels, and also elaboration, in collaboration with the Minister of the Environment policy assumptions in the area of development co-operation pertaining to environment and water economics issues,
- drafting of periodical development co-operation plans,
- elaboration, in co-operation with the Minister of Finance, of general aid programs for the respective states and regions, and conclusion of framework bilateral agreements with priority aid recipients,
- preparation of budget proposals for the Ministry of Finance,
- participation in international co-operation with regard to formulation of the development policy of the European Union and co-ordination of aid in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the United Nations system (in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance),
- co-operation with other international aid organisations and funds, with the exception of international financial institutions,
- monitoring of multilateral aid programs and funds with regard to their effectiveness in achieving their set goals and managing allocated funds,
- co-ordination of the compilation and presentation of statistical data on Poland's development aid, and preparation of statistical reports for the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD and other international institutions,
- elaboration of international co-operation priorities of self-government entities in the sphere of development co-operation,
- permanent supervision and periodical evaluation of the activity of the implementing institution,
- supervision of programs designed to boost the domestic implementing capacity in the sphere of development aid and aid administration training,
- co-ordination of the activity of other ministries in the sphere of development aid.

5.5. Tasks of the Minister of Finance

The Minister of Finance implements aid undertakings by granting aid credits in the framework of the Arrangement on Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits,

guidelines of the OECD Development Assistance Committee concerning aid credits, and the relevant regulations of the EU. The Minister of Finance is also responsible for the participation of Poland in debt relief initiatives and international financial institutions, including regional banks, and also in institutions of the European Union and the OECD involved in financing for development. The Minister of Finance will collaborate - in the framework of aid programs of the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development - with the President of the National Bank of Poland, who represents the interests of Poland in those institutions.

In particular, the tasks of the Minister of Finance will include:

- proposing - during works on the state budget - of the volume of government credits to be granted to other countries,
- selection, in co-operation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Economy, Labour and Social Policy, of countries eligible for aid credits and selection of projects to be financed with the above credits in accordance with EU and OECD requirements, and also granting, in agreement with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of the Environment of aid credits earmarked for implementation of projects connected with environment protection and water management,
- conducting negotiations on debt relief and government credit agreements with other countries,
- fulfilment of debt-relief and credit agreements,
- elaboration of the size and execution of payments to international financial institutions,
- co-ordination of Poland's participation in the initiatives of international financial institutions connected with development financing.

5.6. Tasks of the implementing institution

The tasks of the implementing institution will include providing the following services for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- conducting tender procedures, including tenders for the implementation of aid projects in accordance with the periodical plans of development co-operation,
- agency in selecting potential aid project contractors in accordance with the law on public procurement (projects valued under 3000 Euro),
- keeping project documents, with reference to organisational and financial issues,
- conclusion and accounting on behalf of the MFA of contracts (subsidies) for the implementation of aid projects,
- ongoing supervision and evaluation of aid projects being implemented by contractors,
- agency in the realisation of humanitarian undertakings abroad, including those in collaboration with other non-governmental institutions and/or organisations,

- receiving and reviewing applications by non-governmental institutions for financing of their aid projects,
- management of a data base of non-governmental organisations and other institutions conducting aid activity abroad,
- information and training services for aid project contractors and their international promotion,
- publishing activity related to development co-operation.

5.7. Polish diplomatic posts abroad

Polish diplomatic posts abroad act as intermediary between the authorities of the state of accreditation and the authorities of the Republic of Poland in ensuring expeditious and effective implementation of specific aid projects. They will also ensure co-ordination, at the level of the recipient state, of Polish aid undertakings with those of other states, particularly members of the EU and the OECD.

5.8. Council for Development Co-operation

In order to enhance the engagement of communities from outside the state administration in development co-operation issues, and to ensure transparency of the aid undertakings, the Minister of Foreign Affairs will appoint a Council for Development Co-operation as an advisory body. The Council will include representatives of the Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland, churches and religious unions, non-governmental organisations, academic and business communities, and the media. The Council tasks will include, but not be limited to:

- drafting of opinions concerning development policy,
- submission of proposals concerning the directions and areas of aid activity,
- public promotion of aid issues,
- collaboration with self-government authorities in the area of development co-operation.

6. Co-operation with non-governmental organisations and other institutions

The government authorities implementing development co-operation will develop contacts with non-governmental organisations, including foundations, involved in aid activity for the benefit of developing countries and countries undergoing transformation. The non-governmental organisations, including foundations, will be eligible for funds – in the form of targeted subsidies – from the budget of development aid for financial support of aid projects. The implementing institution will be responsible for concluding contracts with non-governmental organisations and other entities of the non-public sectors, engaged in the implementation of aid projects and programs.

7. Promotion of the program of development co-operation of the Republic of Poland

Well-rooted public knowledge of the goals and directions of aid for third countries is a prerequisite for maintaining the required level of public support for such undertakings. Growth of support for development aid requires a broad information campaign, demonstrating the benefits of the involvement of Polish aid institutions and the effects of aid linked to the activity of the Polish entities involved in aid granting, such as companies (suppliers of goods and services), non-governmental organisations, or other institutions or groups of the non-public sectors.

The relevant government institutions, in collaboration with the non-public sectors, will endeavour to disseminate information on the needs of developing countries and those in transformation – and on Polish endeavours to satisfy those needs. A special role in the promotion of their own activity in the area of foreign aid will be played by institutions of the civil society, particularly non-governmental organisations. Promotion of Poland's development co-operation, also abroad (particularly in EU and OECD states, and among the current and potential recipients of our aid) will be conducted through the mass media, including the Internet, and periodical publications (including the official annual report "Poland's Development Co-operation. Annual Report"). Polls of public opinion on Poland's development aid program will be regularly conducted in collaboration with polling agencies to allow proper response to any public doubts or suggestions concerning the spending of public money.

For promotional purposes, and in view of the need to identify Polish aid activity at home and abroad, the program of Polish development co-operation will be known as "Poland's Development Co-operation Programme".