



REPUBLIC OF POLAND
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

9 EAST 66th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10065

TEL. (212) 744-2506

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Statement delivered by

H.E. Mrs. Grażyna Bernatowicz

**Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Poland**

Democracy Caucus Ministerial Meeting

**September 24, 2009
United Nations, New York**

*Mr. Chairperson,
Ministers, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends.*

It gives me enormous pleasure as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland to stand here in front of you. We would like to congratulate both the outgoing Portuguese Presidency and the incoming Lithuanian Presidency for their efforts in spreading the democratic agenda worldwide.

The Ministerial Meeting of the Community of Democracies is a meeting of our family of democracies which Poland has been a part of since the very beginning. We are very proud that the Declaration proclaiming the creation of the Community of Democracies was signed in Warsaw nine years ago, and that we are hosting the Permanent Secretariat of this important Intergovernmental coalition of pro-democracy forces. The Secretariat is now fully operational and ready to undertake tasks that are to be mandated by the Convening Group, the Ministerial Meetings and by the International Steering Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Democracy has its friends...and unfortunately its adversaries. Especially now, facing a major worldwide economic crisis we need a solid system of values and governance that holds together the countries devoted to democratic values. Today, more than ever, we have to understand that we need the family of democratic communities to grow, to be strong and to be attractive.

The last decades have demonstrated that promotion and delivery of democracy require concerted action of the entire international community. The Community of Democracies promotes sharing good governance and best practices of transparency, predictability and accountability. We support the quest for democracy for all and everywhere. We shall come up with new ideas of outreach and encouragement to strengthen democracy, and we shall open the door to those who would like to take part in sharing good governance practices through a number of initiatives. Democracy is not a gift or privilege. It should be protected in every country including those with a long history of democratic institutions.

Poland is proposing a major re-launch of our activities as a result of the forthcoming 10th anniversary summit that we are planning to host in Krakow in 2010 and we need your help.

Ladies and Gentleman

Warsaw is hosting the offices of the Permanent Secretariat and is covering its basic operational costs, but the mandate that the Community of Democracies receives from its component constituencies (the Convening Group, the Presidency, the Ministerial Conference and the NGO structures) requires funds.

I am happy to announce that already two governments have come up with contributions and I want to reassure you that we are not building a bureaucratic structure.

Ladies and Gentleman, Dear Friends

On behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs I would like to invite all of you to attend the Krakow Summit in June 2010, not to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of our family, but to seek a new and attractive democracy discourse, one that will be heard and understood in most capitals of the world.