



**Statement at the first Ministerial meeting of the
Coalition for the Sahel held by videoconference,
12 June 2020**

**Mr. Jacek Czaputowicz,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland**

Let me first express my condolences to our partners from the Ivory Coast and families of the victims of the recent terrorist attack.

Today's event confirms our determination to combat terrorism and the root causes of instability in the Sahel region, which has been worsened by the pandemic.

I would like to confirm Poland's full support for the initiative to establish the Coalition for the Sahel and Partnership for Security and Stability in the Sahel. These undertakings serve to improve the coordination and coherence of international efforts to create security and stability in the region.

Over the last two years, Poland supported the G5 Sahel Joint Force, donating ammunition to its Chad contingent. In 2013-2014, Poland was involved in the EUTM Mali mission. We maintain continuously our political support for Mali, which is a member of the Community of Democracies and is undergoing the peace process.

Creating the Coalition is an important step forward. However, the effectiveness of the Coalition depends on a full engagement of regional organisations, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union, as well as individual Sahel states. All the way, G5 Sahel partners need to stay very committed to the implementation of joint goals.

The aim of our cooperation is to fight cross-border criminal networks and human trafficking, and to enhance the resilience of individual countries to crises.

In any coalition, mutual trust is of key importance. We build this trust by showing respect for state sovereignty and international law, including human rights.

It is essential to counter effectively the disinformation in the region. Reliable information about stabilisation measures can help fight the influence of radical groups.

Thank you for your attention.