

To whom it may concern -
by Sustainable Development Information Society Forum – Poland,
for the Forum - Leslaw Michnowski.

<http://www.psl.org.pl/kte/postergd.pdf>

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“the sustainable development of our people (...) comprehensive vision for the future of humanity (...) poverty eradication, changing consumption and production patterns (...) pillars of sustainable development – economic development, social development and environmental protection (...)”.

– WSSD - Johannesburg Declaration.

Dear Sir // Dear Madam

In this message we wish to inform you of an initiative presented by the delegation of the Polish government at the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS, Geneva 2003, the relevant document is enclosed). That submission contained, *inter alia*, the following statements: (...) *ways in which the world situation tends to evolve, creates an urgent need to build up a widely and freely accessible world information network. This network could serve to provide monitoring, forecasting and early warning (...) and thus help to implement the principles of sustainable development (SD).* (...) This initiative aims to take up, on a global scale, the building of the information basis for SD-policy and SD-economy.

The reasoning for this submission is as follows:

Systems research conducted in Poland on the causes of a variety of social pathologies — which are dangerously intensifying! — proves beyond doubt that these pathologies are being brought about by the existing and gradually exacerbating global crisis. This crisis could be overcome on the condition that social relations - in the global dimension - are re-oriented towards the common good, and adjusted so as to make effective and good use of achievements of science and technology progress by the society.

In turn, to attain such a re-orientation, it is necessary to create a wisdom-based information society, which is far-sighted and flexible. For this to take place, priority should be given to the process of creation of a commonly accessible, world-wide system of:

- comprehensive monitoring;
- far-sighted forecasting and
- measurable evaluation

of effects of policy, work and other changes in the life conditions of human-beings and nature in general.

Such a SD-information system should be globally-integrated and territorially distributed. In order to bring about the creation of such an information system, it is essential to carry out a large-scale operation, requiring appropriate developments in science, technology and society at large.

Due to the lack of such an information foundation for the global and local governance, a covert or overt struggle for access to scarce and shrinking natural resources will inevitably grow and accelerate the crisis, which, if unchecked, will lead to a global catastrophe. The

deficit of these resources should, and, we believe can, be eliminated through international cooperation, which should replace the existing competition. That, however, requires not only political will, but also the deepening of a comprehensive and easily accessible knowledge about the consequences of human actions and inactions.

In November 2005 in Tunis, the second, and final part of the World Summit on Information Society is scheduled to take place. If the ends outlined above are to be achieved, it is necessary that this initiative obtains recognition and strong international support.

Given all the above, we wish to ask you to support us in bringing this initiative to life, as it is urgently needed for survival of the humankind.

We are deeply convinced that building of the information basis for SD-policy and SD-economy is essential for averting a global catastrophe and achieving sustainable development of the world society¹.

With best regards,

Leslaw Michnowski

Enclosure

**H.E. Professor Michal Kleiber
Minister of Scientific Research and Information
Technology
of the Republic of Poland**

to the World Summit on the Information Society

Geneva, 11 December 2003²

“(...) We believe that the Internet and other ICTs technologies can be an effective tool for forecasting and preventing global threats. It can also be a perfect means to support the implementation of the idea of sustainable development.

In my opinion, ways in which the world situation tends to evolve, creates an urgent need to build up a widely and freely accessible world information network. This network could serve to provide monitoring, forecasting and early warning with regard to elements capable of triggering a global change and thus help to implement the principles of sustainable development.

Such a network would be vital in bringing us closer to a globalization process and its numerous phenomena ranging from the management of human settlements, world eco-systems, population movements up to other crucial elements of global transformation. (...)”

¹ See also: http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs/pcip/misc/polish_council.pdf

² Full text: <http://www.itu.int/wsis/geneva/coverage/statements/poland/pl.doc>