

**Opening of the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14)**

**Poznan, 1 December 2008**

**Statement by Ryszard Grobelny**

**Mayor of Poznan**

*Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen*

As Mayor of Poznań, I am extremely happy and immensely proud that the United Nations Climate Change Conference, the most important global event devoted to this crucial issue, is being held in Poznań.

It truly is an honour to be able to host so many distinguished guests from the world of politics, science and the media here in Poznań, the capital of Wielkopolska.

I thank you for this great honour.

We realize that hosting an event of such significance was and still is a huge challenge for myself and for all Poznanians, and brings with it great responsibility, of which we are fully aware.

We will do our utmost to help Conference guests feel at home in Poznań and to ensure that they will take away fond memories of their time here.

Please feel most welcome to take part in the numerous events accompanying the Conference: concerts, exhibitions, guided tours of Poznań and the surrounding area, and other events specially prepared with the Conference guests' free time in mind.

We also welcome you to experience Poznań's unique culture and traditions. After all, this is the birthplace of the Polish state.

We sincerely hope the Conference sessions prove fruitful and rewarding, and also that your stay in our city proves unforgettable.

We hope you will remember Poznań as an open and friendly city. As a city which creates a good climate – a good climate for talks.

Thank you.