



Warszawa, 1 February 2022

Republic of Poland
Minister
of Foreign Affairs
Zbigniew Rau

**Participants
of the International Data Conference 2022
“Data We Need – Oceans We Want”**

*Dear Excellencies,
Distinguished Hosts,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am delighted that despite the pandemic, the International Data Conference 2022 „Data We Need – Oceans We Want” is taking place. I extend my gratitude to the hosts and the teams of organizers of this event headed by Mr. Ariel Hernán Troisi, Chair of UNESCO-IOC, Professor Jerzy Duszyński, President of the Polish Academy of Science and Professor Jan Marcin Węśławski, Director of the Sopot Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Science. I also appreciate the input of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the local authorities of Sopot.


The role of oceans for our planet cannot be overestimated - they regulate our climate and weather patterns. Poland expresses its full conviction of the need to protect, rebuild and use them sustainably. It requires multinational, multidirectional, multidisciplinary and coordinated marine and maritime research and cooperation. The oceans are also a source of renewable energy, which is why the discussion on the future of ocean governance should aim to make the seas and oceans an integral part of the economic transformation.

This conference is part of the efforts within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), which endeavours to establish a new perspective on how we use these unique resources and manage the assets. I wish it to deliver concrete solutions and ideas related to application of digital technologies and modern infrastructure monitoring changes in environmental processes.

In 2023, the Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Science will celebrate its seventieth anniversary. With the mission to seek and communicate the scientific understanding of the marine environment, the Institute’s scientists carry out innovative research as well as provides expertise and new solutions.

Involvement in oceanography in its international context requires a responsible and committed policy that takes into account the voice of experts and academia. The input of such kind of meetings for broadening horizons, building bridges and shaping international politics is invaluable.

Wishing you constructive discussions,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'L' followed by a smaller 'M' and a long, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.