

Proclamation and Appeal from World Agreement of Polish Patriots*

Representing: North America - South America - Australia - Asia - Europe

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Our Appeal: We firmly request that the following Appeal and Postulates be included in the final resolutions of the “5th World Congress of Polish Diaspora and Poles from Abroad”.

From: World Agreement of Polish Patriots

To: The organizers of the above 5th World Congress: Wspólnota Polska and the Polonia World Council

Also sent to, for information:

- Andrzej Duda President of the Republic of Poland
- Mateusz Morawiecki Prime Minister
- Marek Kuchciński Speaker of the Sejm
- Stanisław Karczewski Speaker of the Senate
- Polish Episcopate
- Polish media and politicians

Dear Sir or Madam

In connection with the World Congress of Polish Diaspora and Poles Abroad to be held in Warsaw on 20-23 September 2018, we the undersigned representatives of the World Agreement of Polish Patriots established on August 22, 2018, officially present this appeal, together with the postulates, addressed to the authorities of the Republic of Poland, in particular to the Government, the Sejm and the Senate, requesting that this appeal, in an unchanged form, become one of the final resolutions of the Congress.

The postulates included in the appeal summarize the extensive debates carried out by Polish patriots from around the world over months. They express deep concerns about the current lack of communication with, and cooperation by, state authorities with a wide range of active Polonia organizations. These Polonia organizations feel that they are being unfairly treated. Symptomatic of this lack of cooperation is the fact that the majority of people from the independent and patriotic parts of Polonia and Poles from abroad, who are very interested in participating in the Congress, have not been invited. This lack of invitation has been especially hurtful due to this World Congress taking place on the 100th anniversary of Poland's regaining independence, and the 550th anniversary of the Polish parliament.

* The World Agreement of Polish Patriots represents the vast array of patriotic Poles living outside the country and is not associated with any party or any political environment in Poland. The agreement is based on Christian values and canon “God, Honor and Fatherland”, but it remains open to people of other faiths and non-believers.

The World Agreement of Polish Patriots submits the following postulates to the authorities of the Republic of Poland:

1. Cooperation

We propose that a Government and Parliamentary Working Group for Improving Collaboration with the 'patriotic Polish diaspora and Poles' communities from abroad should be appointed with the necessary decision-making and implementing powers. We expect the above Working Group to convene meetings until the end of 2018 with representatives of the World Agreement of Polish Patriots, which represents these Polonia communities, with the aim being to bring about healing and cooperation with patriotic Poles living outside of Poland.

2. Vetting

Adopting a law imposing the obligation of lustration of all persons joining the boards of organizations and Polish diaspora associations around the world (including Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Auditors, etc.) to eliminate activists in any way connected with the former communist system. The lustration obligation should in particular be imposed on Polish diaspora organizations and associations, which are financed by the Polish state and on organizations in Poland that support Polonia.

3. Institute of Polonia

Consolidating in one place, e.g. in a Institute of Polonia established for this purpose or alternatively in a Polonia Office, all state entities involved in cooperation, assistance, promotion or other activities for Polonia and Poles living permanently outside of Poland. In our opinion, this consolidation is indispensable for improving cooperation, decision-making processes, and implementing the decisions taken. The competences and scope of activities of this consolidated institution should include planning, coordinating and implementing the postulates stipulated in the points 4 to 12 of this Appeal.

4. Financing Projects Carried out by Polonia and Poles from Abroad

Replacing the current, non-transparent and nepotistic way of financing Polish diaspora projects from government budget and extra-budget funds, with a new and transparent system that will be friendly to Polish diaspora groups focused on achieving goals and outcomes for the benefit of Polish national interests.

5. Historical Policy

Preparation of a cooperation plan between the Polish authorities (in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Development, IPN and PISM) and the Polonia and Poles from abroad, in order to implement a coherent historical policy and support of the Polish authorities in the fight for the good name of Poland and the Polish nation.

6. Education

Establishment of a working group to develop a new, efficient education system for young people of Polish descent adapted to the local needs and capabilities of Poles in individual countries.

Implementation of legal regulations and a supervisory system guaranteeing that the education subsidized by the Polish state abroad will include in its programs reliable, comprehensive historical and patriotic aspects.

7. Lobbying

The fastest possible creation of a working group that develops models for the Polish state to support Polish institutes / foundations dealing with professional pro-Polish lobbying, in particular in countries of strategic importance for the Polish national interests.

8. Media

The introduction of legal regulations, the establishment of a budget and the grant of minimum 1 hour a day

of airtime in the main public media (TVP1, TVP Info, TVP Polonia, Polish Radio, PR24) for programs edited, implemented and produced by Poles living outside Poland, in particular for radio and television programs. Poles living outside of Poland need to also be enabled to have access to Polish public media (TVP1, TVP Info, TVP Polonia, Polish Radio, PR24). To this end, we call for a meeting with representatives of individual media, and with representatives of the National Media Council.

9. Polonia Business

Improvement of legal and tax regulations for Polish diaspora enterprises investing in Poland, and supporting the promotion of these enterprises within Poland.

10. Diplomacy

Better use of Polonia's potential by creating quotas and a new recruitment path to embassies and consulates of the Republic of Poland, including honorary consulates, for locally resident (in-country), well-educated people of Polish origin (regardless of whether they have dual citizenship or not). Included should be the training of suitably apt young people at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw.

11. Tax Problems

Polish authorities must provide viable and fair remedies and improvements regarding international problems related to the double taxation of Polish pensioners, and assistance in social support matters in individual countries.

12. Problems of Polish Minorities Abroad

Demanding from those countries which have the status of ‘partners’ with Poland to fulfill their obligations under international agreements, in particular regarding the observance of the rights of Polish national minorities in the signatory countries of these agreements.

13. Discrimination Against Patriotic Polish Diaspora and Poles Abroad

We strongly protest against discrimination carried out by certain Polish authorities against the patriotic communities of the Polish Diaspora as to their being ignored via official contacts with representatives of state authorities, and their not being invited to, nor involved with, the organization of any congresses, conferences, symposia or meetings about Polonia. It is our patriotic-independence communities and individuals, gathered in small groups or associations, that have been operating abroad for years in favor of the Polish national interests. Importantly, these patriotic Polish diaspora groups contributed in 2015, together with the patriotic part of Polish society resident in Poland, to bring to power the current government. They were also - and will be in the future - the core of a multimillion Polish population operating all over the world for the development of a strong and independent Republic of Poland, for the benefit of present and future generations of Poles everywhere.

(English translation provided by Daniel M. Zamoyski, of PMI and P2BP)

See the list of signatories in the original Polish version.