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GEOGRAPHICAL PACT FOR SOCIETY AND LANDSCAPES

**Declaration
of the Committee of Geographical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences,
the Polish Geographical Society, and
the Conference of Heads of Geographical Institutions
regarding the contemporary challenges facing the geographical sciences**

We, the participants of the Congress of Polish Geography in Lublin, representing all geographical institutions in Poland:

- **aware of the challenges arising from profound contemporary transformations** in the natural and socio-economic environment; **concerned by the increasing global crises** – climatic, water resources, economic, and geopolitical,
- **guided by responsibility for the future state of Poland's natural environment and landscapes**, expressing our care for the preservation of geodiversity, biodiversity, and cultural heritage as the foundation of sustainable development and socio-national identity, and
- **recognizing the key importance of geographical sciences and geographical education** in understanding, diagnosing, and shaping spatial processes,

hereby declare as follows:

1. In the face of accelerating climate change, increasingly frequent extreme phenomena and events, environmental degradation, and diminishing natural resources and ecosystems, as well as in view of emerging geopolitical and socio-economic challenges, including global threats to civilization, **geography plays a leading role in analysing the causes and effects of these phenomena and in developing adaptation strategies to address them** at local, regional, and global levels.
2. Contemporary political-institutional and socio-economic crises, manifested among others in deepening spatial social inequalities, demographic problems (including uncontrolled migratory processes), unchecked urbanisation, and a dichotomy between socio-economic and spatial planning processes, **require a systemic and integrated geographical approach** that takes into account the complexity of present-day challenges and the pursuit of natural, social, and spatial order.
3. The continuous monitoring of spatial processes, both natural and socio-economic, is an indispensable condition for effectively responding to dynamic changes, and it also supports decision-making processes that serve sustainable development; **geography, as the science of places, regions, space and landscape, and of human–environment relationships, plays a particularly crucial role** in the systemic and holistic identification, documentation, and assessment of spatial phenomena and processes.
4. Geodiversity and biodiversity of landscapes, encompassing the abiotic and biotic **resources and values of the geographical environment, are a great and inalienable value of universal significance**, determining the quality of life for present and future generations, and their preservation demands special legal safeguards.
5. Fostering landscape and environmental awareness, as well as geospatial knowledge within society, is essential **to reinforce the need to protect Earth's resources** and requires in-depth interdisciplinary geographical analysis.
6. Geographical education at all levels of schooling should be treated as **a strategic task in strengthening spatial and social competencies, global civic responsibility, and patriotism, as well as in nurturing local and national identity**; it should also form the foundation for developing the capacity for critical thinking about the world and for participating in its sustainable development.

Consequently, we call for the urgent undertaking of actions in the following areas:

- **recognizing the role of geographical sciences and geographical education** as fundamental and indispensable in the processes of harmoniously shaping the natural and socio-economic environment of contemporary Poland, as well as in educating society;
- **making more appropriate and fuller use of the results of geographical research in national, regional, and local public policies**, including the implementation of an integrated territorial approach and the comprehensive application of geographical knowledge¹;
- a joint effort to create a more sustainable, just, and safe world, and **to shape a society that is aware of the spatial natural diversity, landscape, socio-economic, and cultural phenomena**.

Lublin, 12 September 2025

¹ In this context, we support the Appeal of the National Spatial Development Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences of 4 July 2025 regarding the need to urgently complete the reform of the integrated spatial and regional development planning system in Poland (<https://shorturl.at/fbAab>).