

Check against delivery

Statement by

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**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office and
other international organizations in Geneva
at the consideration of final outcome of the UPR of Poland**

Geneva, 20 September 2012

Madam President,

Distinguished Ambassadors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Poland expresses its high appreciation of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and wishes to thank all States for very valuable comments, questions, and recommendations received during the consideration of Poland in the review process earlier this year. In particular, I wish to thank those countries, which actively participated in the discussion on the report.

While preparing its national report, Poland engaged in a wide-range consultation process with all relevant ministries and national bodies. With equal thoroughness and diligence we studied and considered all comments and recommendations Poland received.

The recommendations covered a very broad spectrum of issues and at the previous session of the Working Group on the UPR we shared our preliminary views on them. Of the total of 124 recommendations received, Poland supports 105 recommendations, does not support 6 recommendations and takes note of all others, as indicated in the Addendum (A/HRC/21/14/Add.1) to the Working Group report. We are pleased to inform you, that we have already taken actions to implement some of the received recommendations, and made every effort to come with explanation regarding those few that Poland was not in a position to support.

Let me briefly recall that in recent years the Polish government has taken steps to ensure continued progress towards adopting by Poland further international human rights instruments.

Within Poland's human rights agenda, the rights of members of the most vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities are the ones to which particular attention is paid.

In this context, I am pleased to inform that since our discussions a few months ago, the process of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has been completed and the ratification instrument is going to be deposited to the Secretary-General of the United Nations later this month.

Meanwhile, the legislative works are being continued, so that Poland can sign the United Nations International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and withdraw the reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Despite obvious progress, we are far from being complacent and in order to address the remaining challenges, including those referred to the recommendations received from international monitoring bodies, Poland has been putting particular emphasis on the improvement of the conditions in prison and detention centres; the decrease in length of court proceedings and pretrial detentions; human rights training for law enforcement officials; the fight of discrimination against minorities and the promotion of gender equality.

Madam President,

I wish to reaffirm Poland's commitment to cooperate with the Human Rights Council and all its mechanisms. The UPR is an extremely valuable tool and the second cycle clearly shows that Member States have come to appreciate it and try to fully utilise its potential and the opportunities it offers for the advancement of human rights. We equally value and support the work of the special procedures and, therefore, in 2001, we issued a standing invitation to all mandate holders to visit our country.

I am pleased to note that in the discussions numerous efforts undertaken by Poland have been positively recognized. I sincerely hope that lessons learned by Poland, as well as good practices that we tried to share in the process, will also serve as an inspiration for others.

Thank you, Madam President.