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Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
13th Session

Review of Poland

Intervention made by Egypt
30 May 2012

Madame President,

My delegation welcomes H.E the Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland and her accompanying delegation and appreciates the presentation of Poland's national report today.

We take positive note of the structure of the report that outlined the steps taken to implement the recommendations accepted by Poland during the first cycle of the UPR. It is noteworthy to mention the accession to some regional and international human rights instruments. My delegation recommends the government of Poland to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

We recognise measures undertaken in the area of protecting children against sexual abuse and exploitation. However, we are still concerned about the limited nature of those measures and recommend the Polish government to adopt and enact laws on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and other forms of sexual exploitation of children.

We take note of Polish efforts at enhancing gender equality and empowerment of women. We recommend that Poland further enhances and encourages the political participation of women, including through awareness-raising campaigns.

My delegation is concerned about the human rights situation of migrants, and national and religious minorities in Poland, in particular their enjoyment of their rights to housing, education, health, and work and employment. In addition, Poland witnesses a prevalence of racial violence and other forms and manifestations of racism and xenophobia, including racial and racially-motivated discrimination and hate crimes, in particular against the Roma, Muslims and persons of Arab, Asian, and African origins. These are coupled with a low rate of investigation and prosecution. In this regard, my delegation recommends the Polish government to adopt and enact legislation

to criminalise racial and racially-motivated and hate crimes; to institutionalise national mechanisms for the collection of data on and monitoring of incidents of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia; and to adopt laws and concrete measures to ensure the prompt, impartial and independent investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of incidents of racial, and racially-motivated hate speech, discrimination, and crimes; to ensure the freedom of speech in a manner that balances its obligations under both articles 19 and 20 of the ICCPR.

I thank you.