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**PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

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UPR of POLAND

Madame President,

Slovenia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Poland and thanks for the preparation and presentation of the national report and for the commitment to the UPR process.

Slovenia commends Poland for its active role within the Human Rights Council and for its commitments to the protection of human rights. We would like to express our satisfaction with the numerous and diverse human rights training courses on prevention and combating of hate crimes provided for the employees of the Polish police force however we noted that the excessive use of force by police officers remains an issue.

With regard to gender equality, we would like to commend the Government for taking additional measures to ensure the equality of women and men in the labor market. Nevertheless the wage gap between men and women remains large and the participation of women in the labor market relatively low.

We note with concern restrictive anti-abortion legislation, the lack of guidelines as to what constitutes a threat to a pregnant woman's health or life, and the absence of an effective remedy that would allow women to challenge a doctor's decision on access to therapeutic abortion.

Slovenia offers the following recommendations to Poland:

- to include sexual orientation and gender identity in the hate speech provisions of the national Criminal Code, and adopt appropriate legal measures making sexual orientation and gender identity as possible discrimination grounds in *any* context,
- to define unambiguously the circumstances under which therapeutic abortion is allowed and to provide women that have been unjustifiably denied access to adequate reproductive health services with an effective redress mechanism.

Thank you.