



**Statement by Sweden in the
interactive dialogue on Poland**

*Delivered by Minister Counsellor Irina Schoulgin Nyoni
Geneva, May 30, 2012*

Madam President,

Sweden wishes to thank Under Secretary of State Bernatowicz and her delegation for the presentation of your national report and to welcome you to the UPR session. My delegation also appreciates the responses given to our advance questions.

Sweden welcomes that there is an unequivocal legal prohibition in Poland of corporal punishment of children as of August 2010. We note that the law also facilitates an early response to suspected child abuse from civil servants and social workers. However, civil society organizations have reported that the legislation still isn't known to a satisfying degree in state institutions and among the general public.

While noting the positive measures taken by Poland to address the continuing occurrence of violence against children, Sweden therefore recommends that measures be taken by the Government of Poland to ensure that current legal protection of children is recognized and commonly known in public.

The Family Planning Act of 1993 permits termination of pregnancy in three rather rare circumstances. Critics claim that the legislation doesn't provide women with the right to health and equal access to health as guaranteed in the Polish Constitution (Article 68). The bureaucratic process, involving doctors and sometimes prosecutors, can put women in an unfavorable position, especially when time is of the essence. Critics also claim that there is a need for procedural safeguards in the event of disagreement between the patient and the doctor.

Based on this, Sweden would like to recommend the Government of Poland to examine possible ways to make the bureaucratic process

required when terminating a pregnancy as quick as possible, and to maximize its efforts to make sure that the process is conducted in a professional way.

Thank you, Madam President