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## **Review of the Republic of Korea – intervention by Poland**

*(Geneva, 25 October)*

Poland would like to thank the delegation of the Republic of Korea for a constructive participation in the UPR process. We have listened attentively to the presentation of its informative national report.

We welcome the efforts undertaken by the authorities of the Republic of Korea to strengthen the protection of human rights. In this regard, we note with appreciation the establishment of the National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights 2007-2011 and of the National Human Rights Policy Council, as a consultative body in charge of its implementation.

At the same time, Poland notes that there are issues that merit further attention, including in the area of protection of women against discrimination and violence. The compilation prepared by the OHCHR mentions inter alia the persistent segregation in fields of study and on the labour market, resulting from patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society.

Furthermore, we recall that the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression expressed his concern that since 2008 there had been increased restrictions on individuals' right to freedom of opinion and expression in the Republic of Korea. Yet another matter that attracts our attention is the unresolved issue regarding the right to conscientious objection to military service.

The delegation of Poland would like to offer the following recommendations to the Republic of Korea:

- to consider undertaking educational and awareness-raising actions promoting co-responsibility in domestic sphere and preventing domestic violence,
- to ensure full implementation of its international human rights obligations regarding freedom of expression,
- to consider establishing mechanisms preventing security forces from using force in an excessive or unjustified manner, especially against peaceful protesters,
- to ensure that the right to conscientious objection to military service is observed.